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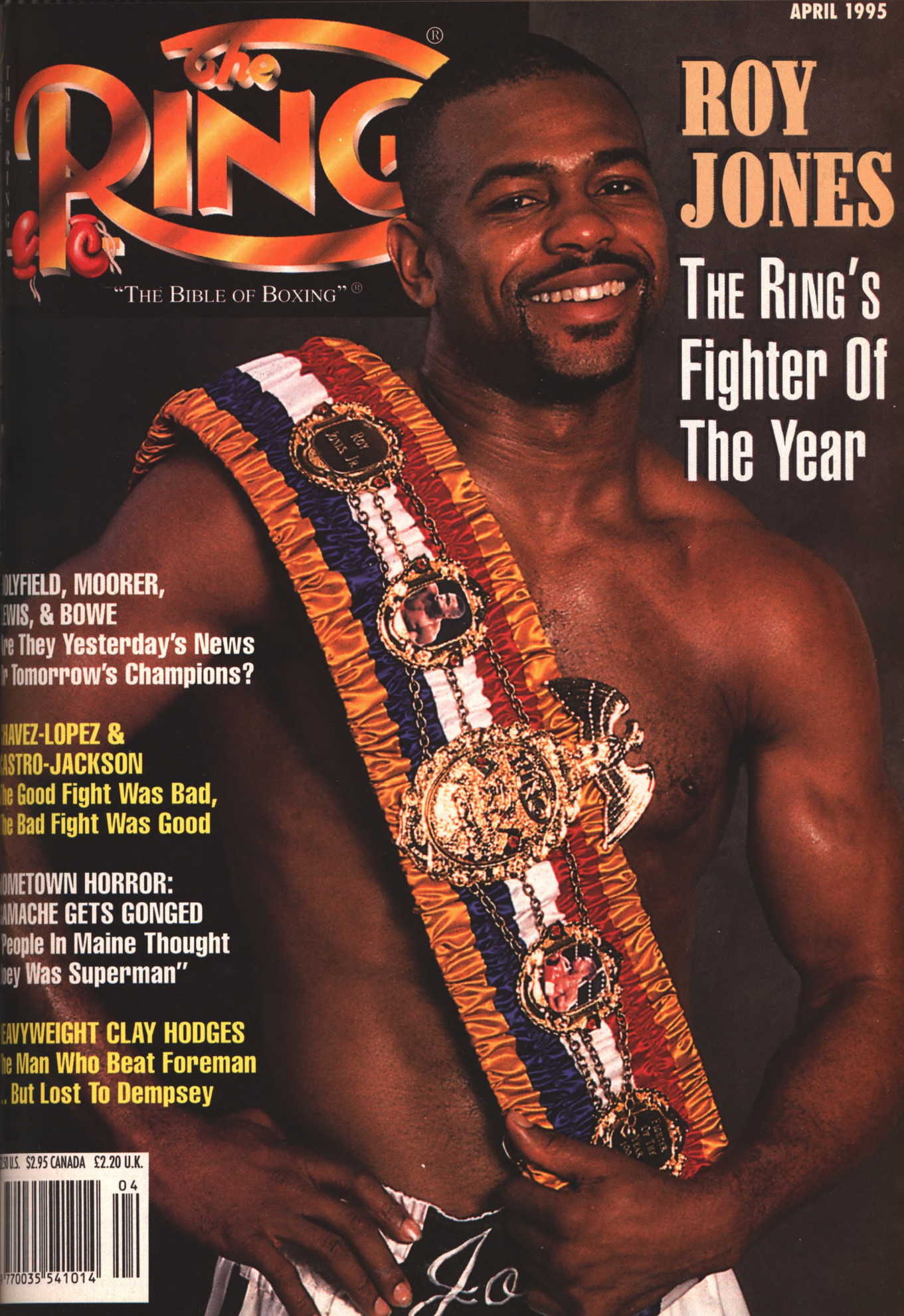

ROY JONES

THE RING'S Fighter Of The Year

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re They Yesterday's News
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HAVEZ-LOPEZ &
ASTRO-JACKSON
he Good Fight Was Bad,
he Bad Fight Was Good

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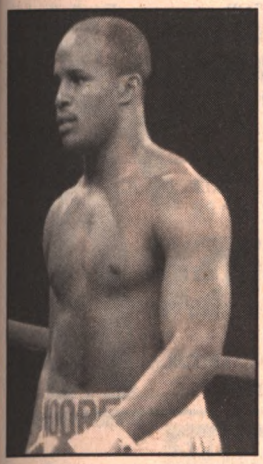

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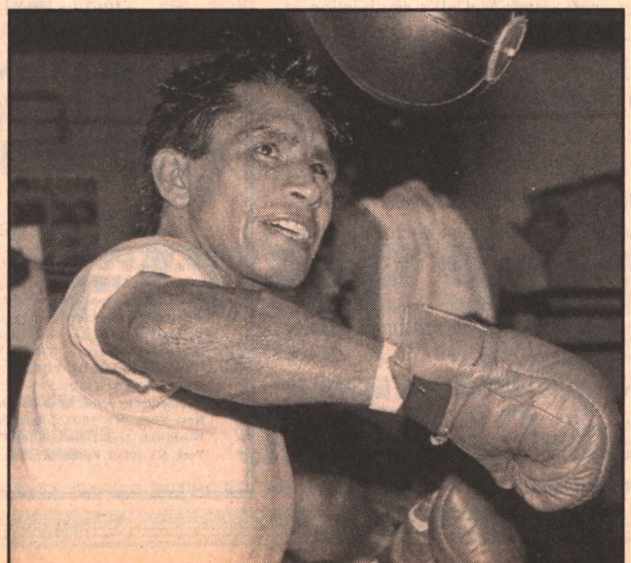

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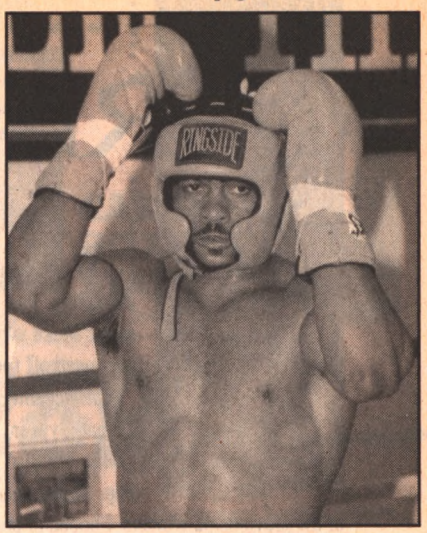

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RINGSIDE

When I told Dave Gerhardt, THE RING's vice president of marketing, that Roy Jones was selected Fighter of the Year, he said, "Make sure to let him know Joe Louis' RING belt was just auctioned off for $100,000."

In December, I presented Jones with the belt at the Triple Threat Gym in Vernon Valley, New Jersey. I indeed mentioned Louis, but also Henry Armstrong, Sugar Ray Robinson, Willie Pep, Muhammad Ali, and Julio Cesar Chavez. By naming some of the previous 68 winners, I hoped to provide Jones with perspective. Good company? He had just joined the pantheon. Judging by his reaction, I doubt he'll be putting up *his* belt for auction any time soon.

The run for Fighter of the Year was like a thoroughbred stakes race. First out of the gate was "The Surgeon," a veteran campaigner who set an impressive pace by winning two world titles and issuing a particular Mexican legend his first official loss. Turning for home, The Surgeon, far too classy to be dismissed as cheap speed, led by several lengths. In deep stretch, however, he was passed by "Big George," an ageless wonder who subscribes to the belief that the race is won by the slow and steady. But only inches from the wire, a burner named Jones, whose surname belies his uniqueness, proved fastest of all.

By thoroughly outclassing James Toney in the most anticipated showdown of the year, Jones won both the IBF super middleweight championship and Fighter of the Year honors. The one title he has yet to secure, however, is best fighter, pound-for-pound, in the world. For the past year or so, that distinction has belonged to WBC welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker. In time, Jones, who is five years younger than Whitaker, will likely pass "Sweet Pea." In the meantime, here's to hoping he adopts Whitaker's attitude. At this point in his career, Whitaker seeks only big fights and legitimate challenges. And, like boxing's number one, Jones, whom I'll designate 1A, is far too talented to settle for anything less.

***

Fight of the Year: Both Randall-Chavez duels were riveting, but I'll go with a late entry, WBA middleweight champion Jorge Castro's unlikely kayo of John David Jackson. An awesome performance, especially for a fighter who had been previously crowned only because of alphabet-organization politics.

Knockout of the Year: In almost any other year, Oliver McCall's annihilation of Lennox Lewis would be a runaway winner. But 1994 was the year of George Foreman's miracle. If you're ranking all-time one-punch kayos in terms of significance, the right hand Big George fired to down defending WBA-IBF heavyweight champion Michael Moorer belongs no worse than third, behind the bombs landed by Rocky Marciano (vs. Jersey Joe Walcott) and Sugar Ray Robinson (vs. Gene Fullmer).

Upset of the Year: Lots of candidates, including McCall-Lewis, Randall-Chavez I, Jake Rodriguez-Charles Murray, Steve Little-Michael Nunn, and John Michael Johnson-Junior Jones. My pick is obscure South African Vuyani Bungu's points win over pound-for-pound entrant Kennedy McKinney.

Round of the Year: Nothing was more dramatic than the ninth and final round of Castro-Jackson. Just when you were sure Jackson was going to win …

And here's some wishful thinking: Just when you thought 1995 could never top 1994 …

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

Volume 74, No. 4 April 1995

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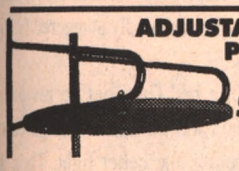

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COME OUT WRITING

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THE IMAGE OF BOXING

As a serious fan of boxing, I cannot help but be concerned with the omnipresence and influence of the sport's most infamous promoter, Don King. This man's association with our sport adds to the popular perception that boxing is an illegitimate and corrupt endeavor.

King has been indicted on federal charges of insurance fraud, yet he continues to promote. How can this be? Doesn't the state of Nevada, for instance, have a procedure by which promoters are licensed? And if so, shouldn't there be an administrative procedure for reviewing the character and conduct of license-holders?

If a figure in baseball, football, or basketball were brought up on federal charges, the commissioner and/or the individual's team would immediately conduct an investigation and possibly suspend or sanction him. Action would be taken to protect the image of and public confidence in the sport. Consider how baseball handled the shame brought to it by Pete Rose, Marge Schott, and Al Campanis.

Boxing needs to take care of its own. Shouldn't the Nevada State Athletic Commission conduct an investigation into the charges filed against King and take some action, like suspending him or revoking his promoter's license? Who is going to stand up and do something to restore the public's confidence in boxing?

THOMAS BENAVIDEZ
San Diego, CA

Photo by Scott Romer

Is promoter Don King bad for boxing and its image? Reader Thomas Benavidez says he is concerned King promotes the widely held belief that boxing is "an illegitimate and corrupt endeavor."

Editor's Note: We asked Marc Ratner, the executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission for a response. Said Ratner, "In Nevada, an indictment is not an admission of guilt. Until a conviction, no action will be taken. King is welcomed to promote in Nevada. We haven't had any problems with him."

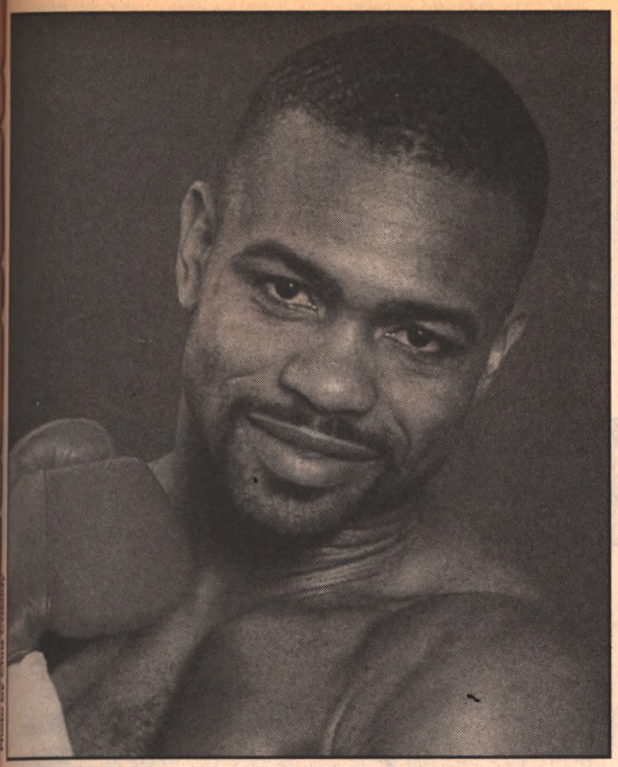
A recent matchup on the USA Network's *Tuesday Night Fights* clearly illustrated how far boxing has to go before it can be considered a well-run sport.

In November, I watched USBA junior lightweight champion Arturo Gatti defend against former world champion Jose Sanabria. Gatti started strongly and rocked Sanabria in the first round. After that, Sanabria slowly but steadily established his combinations, and from the sixth through the 12th rounds, he repeatedly staggered Gatti and raised nasty welts around his eyes.

On a couple of occasions, Sanabria had Gatti out on his feet. When it was announced that the decision was unanimous, I figured it was in favor of Sanabria, who had fought the better fight. Then it was revealed that Gatti was the winner! It surely didn't that hurt Gatti, who is based in Jersey City, New Jersey, was the local fighter. (The card took place in Secaucus, New Jersey.)

The robbery proved how unpredictable and unjust boxing can be. I could only shake my head.

RON THUEMLER
Tampa, FL



Even James Toney's fans are writing in to acknowledge that newly crowned IBF super middleweight champion Roy Jones is a unique talent.

NOT JUST ANOTHER JONES

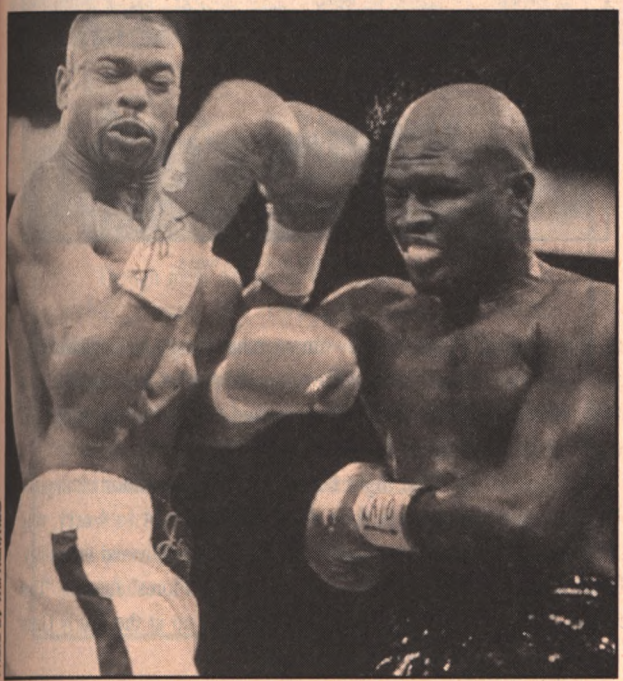
It has been said that no one is more blind than one who will not see. It seems that most boxing "experts" (commentators, writers, managers) cannot or will not see Roy Jones for what he really is.

What Jones is is head and shoulders above anyone else considered to be the best fighter, pound-for-pound, in the world today. (Most often this is said to be Pernell Whitaker.) Jones' recent dismissal of James Toney should have been all the evidence needed by anyone who can see. From my vantage point, Jones won every round handily.

When the dust settles, *everyone* will see Jones will be regarded as the best fighter ever to put on a pair of boxing gloves. And that includes Sugar Ray Robinson, Willie Pep, Joe Louis, Muhammad Ali, and Pernell Whitaker.

You *will* see!

JOHN W. FRENCHER
Hollywood, CA



In outpointing Toney, Jones dominated a fight the experts and bettors called pick-'em. Perhaps it's premature, but will Jones become an all-time great?

After watching Roy Jones assiduously outbox and overwhelm James Toney, I was frustrated to hear that some people believe Toney was not at his best as a result of having struggled to make weight. If you watch the tape and compare it to Toney's previous fights, you'll see there was no reduction in hand speed or endurance. In the later rounds of the Jones fight, Toney was still throwing sharp and powerful right hands. His problem was he just couldn't land them against the quicker and more agile Jones.

After scoring such a thorough victory over one of the finest champions in the sport, Jones should be ranked no worse than second to Pernell Whitaker on all pound-for-pound lists.

PETER R. CORY
Kingston, Ontario

"Here's a challenge to all the Toney supporters who say Jones is a joke: I'll write in and admit I was wrong if Toney beats Jones. But if Jones beats Toney, you better be ready to do the same."

Those were the words of reader Jim Tuck in his "Time To Credit Jones" letter in the November 1994 issue of THE RING. Well, here I am, a Toney supporter, writing in to admit I was wrong. Although I never bashed Jones or said he was a joke, I did deprive him of the credit and respect he has apparently deserved all along.

Sorry, Roy: I bet a hundred bucks against you. I'll never make that mistake again. As for all the Jones fans, you don't have to rub it in. We Toney fans have already eaten our own words.

TREVER BENEDICT
Augusta, ME

BOXING'S BROTHERS

After reading the story of boxing brothers in the January 1995 issue ("It's A Family Affair: Gabe And Rafael Ruelas Meet At The Top"), I was surprised you left out the Hogue twins, Shorty and Big Boy, who fought out of California. Shorty was by far the better of the two. He beat Archie Moore twice, took the great Charley Burley 10 rounds, and faced the murderer's row of black fighters that Sugar Ray Robinson wanted no part of.

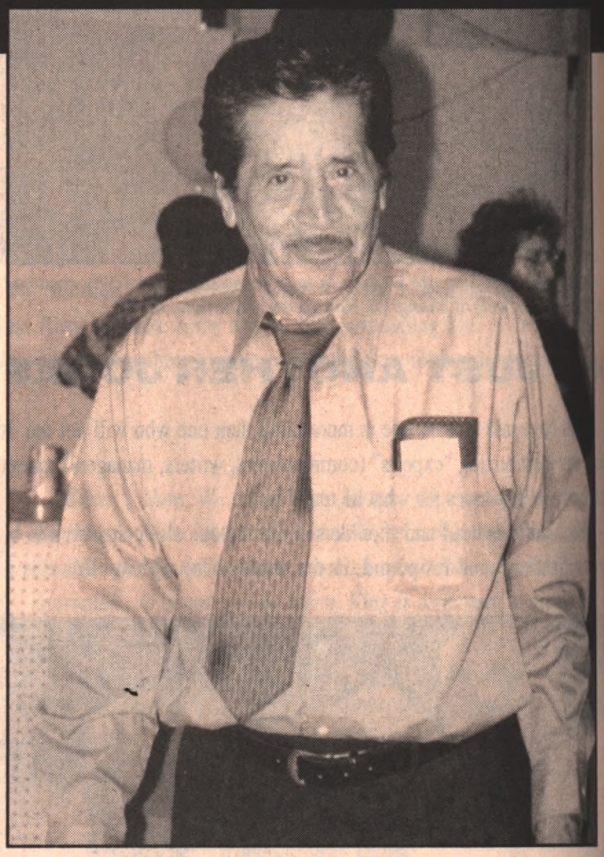
There's a story of the time Big Boy was supposed to fight Moore, but suffered a gash on his leg jumping between cars in a parking lot. Shorty was summoned from a local bar to take his place. To no one's surprise, that time, Moore was victorious.

The Hogue twins were tough—maybe too tough for their own good.

A.J. (BLACKIE) NELSON
Liberal, KS ■

ROUND ONE

THE AMATEURS' PRO



Flores: A hero in many ways

"I related to everybody," said Johnnie Flores with a typical smile and shrug when asked recently how he had remained one of the premier figures in Southern California boxing for more than half a century. Flores' death, caused by a freak accident in the building (a former jail) that houses the gym of the Los Angeles Youth Athletic Club, leaves a seismic void in Golden State boxing. His body was found at the bottom of an elevator shaft. Flores was 78.

In the pros, Flores worked with such L.A. stars as Jerry Quarry, Dwight Hawkins, and Ruben Navarro, but it was in amateur boxing that he was truly a giant figure. Flores began the L.A. Junior Golden Gloves program 50 years ago, and he was the director of the L.A. Golden Gloves tournament since 1977. At the time of his death, he was also vice president of the National Golden Gloves Association.

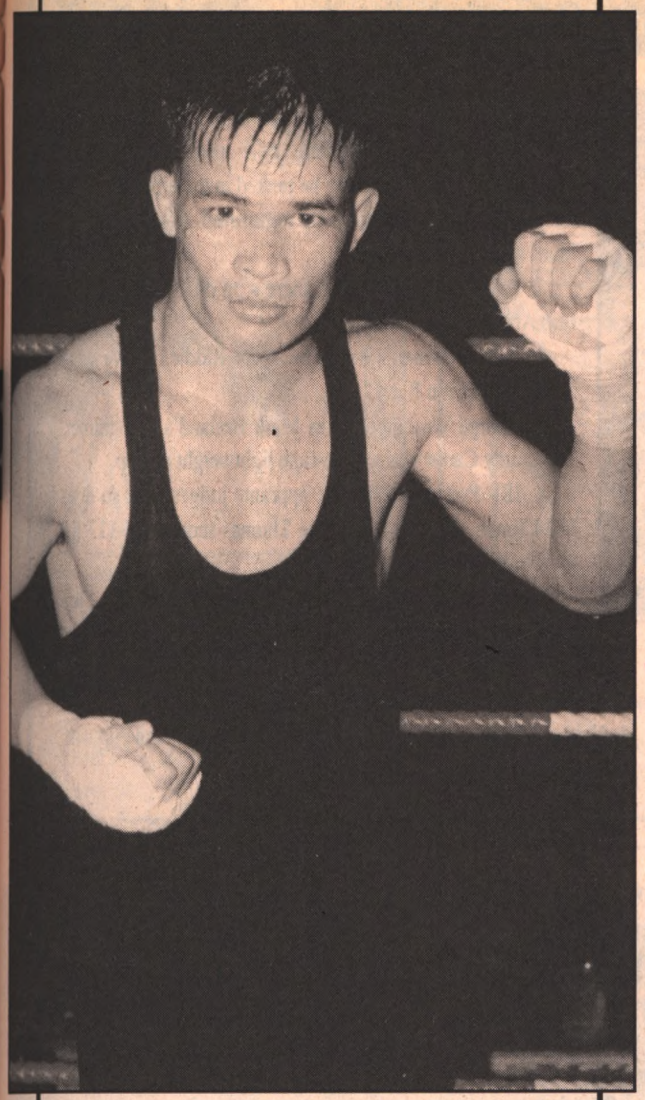
Flores didn't just make fighters, he made productive citizens. "Our objective is to get kids off the streets," he said. "If they develop and want to compete, fine and dandy. These kids boxing in the gym are not kids looking for trouble."

The Mexican-born Flores was widely recognized for his contributions to boxing. In 1991, he was inducted into the World Boxing Hall of Fame, and last year, the president of Mexico presented him with a medal for his work in the amateurs.

He was an American hero, too. Flores' exploits in World War II—among other things, he singlehandedly captured 15 German soldiers—are worthy of a Hollywood production and earned him the Silver and Bronze stars and the Purple Heart.

The night before his wake, a minor earthquake shook the Los Angeles area. Not to worry, ring announcer Danny Valdivia, who delivered the eulogy, told the 800-plus mourners at Flores' funeral. "That was just Johnny setting things up at the Pearly Gates Boxing Club."

–Pete Ehrmann



Sithbangprachan: An early retirement

A TEARFUL GOODBYE

Though most American fight fans never saw him in action, former IBF flyweight champion Phichit Sithbangprachan was among the most exciting fighters in the game. On November 25 in Bangkok, the 28-year-old powerpunching Thai, who won the title in 1992 and made five successful defenses, tearfully announced his retirement because of head injuries suffered in his defense last May against Mexico's Jose Luis Zepeda. It's anticipated Zepeda will face Francisco Tejedor for the vacant title.

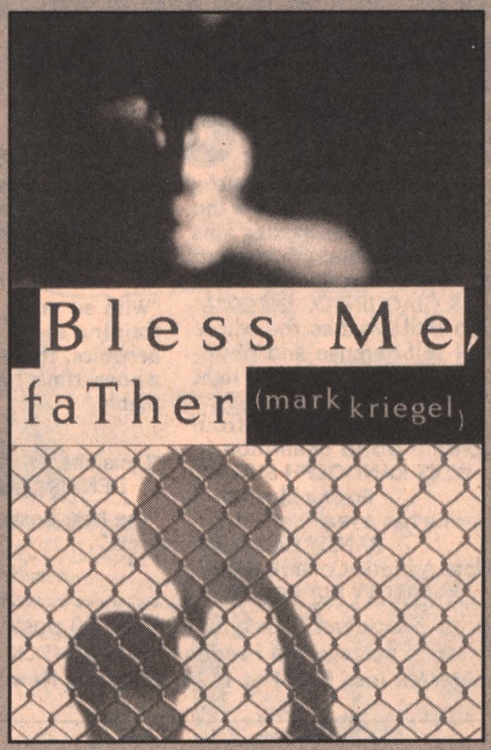
THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

As a sports columnist for the New York *Daily News*, Mark Kriegel only occasionally writes about the Sweet Science. But in *Bless Me, Father* (Doubleday, $22), he displays a keen understanding of what boxing represents. While *Bless Me, Father* wouldn't be described as a boxing book, the fight game is at the center of what is a gritty and absorbing debut novel of crime, vengeance, and redemption.

There are four major characters: Frank Battaglia, a former fighter and a mid-level gangster operating out of Greenwich Village in the mid-'80s; his son Nicky; Toodie Gleason, a trainer who Frank hires to work with the reluctant Nicky because "boxing builds character;" and Samantha, who in more ways than one fits the description of "the mystery blonde." Interestingly, the story is based on real events: In 1992, Kriegel was covering the John Gotti trial for the *New York Post*. He befriended Teddy Atlas, who at the time had been hired by mob informant and star witness Sammy "The Bull" Gravano to train him at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn. Gravano also wanted his son to learn to box, believing it would help make him "a tough guy."

Kriegel knows the streets of New York well, and he masterfully uses the city as a backdrop for a coming-of-age story filled with violent action and plot twists. Still, *Bless Me, Father* is primarily a psychological novel, and in that sense, it reveals as much about boxing as it does about its characters.

–Steve Farhood



THE 10 REASONS WHY BOXING AND POLITICS SHOULD MIX

Newman (right): The handshake of a politician?

10. If WBC President Jose Sulaiman, who is part-Lebanese, had been the boss in 1967, he never would have sanctioned the ultimate mismatch, the six-day Arab-Israeli war.

9. Ted Kennedy's been a helluva Senator for Massachusetts, so why the hell shouldn't Boston heavyweight Peter McNeeley be ranked in the top 10?

8. Tex Cobb will soon be appointed Ambassador to Mars.

7. At the negotiating table, there's no difference between Bob Arum and Newt Gingrich.

6. Rock Newman's trying to do for Riddick Bowe what he did for Marion Barry.

5. George Washington was Mark Breland's first trainer, and Jimmy Carter was a three-time lightweight champ.

4. IBF President Bob Lee appoints judges, and so does Bill Clinton. (" ... and Clarence Thomas scores 114-113 for the winner and *new* ... ")

3. The practice of filibustering was introduced at a Don King press conference.

2. Just like Adlai Stevenson, Meldrick Taylor had to wait four years for a rematch, only to again get kayoed.

1. Neither Congress nor boxing's power brokers can come up with a solid health care plan.

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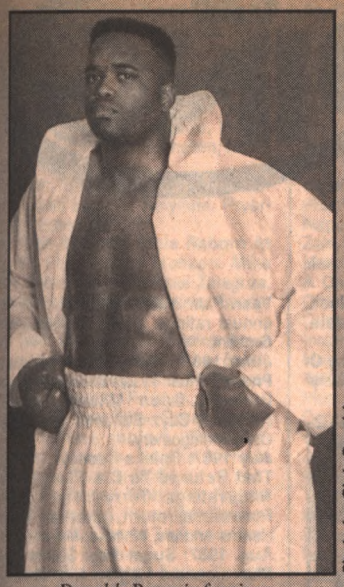


Photo by Chris Cassidy

Donald: Bowe is forgiven

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

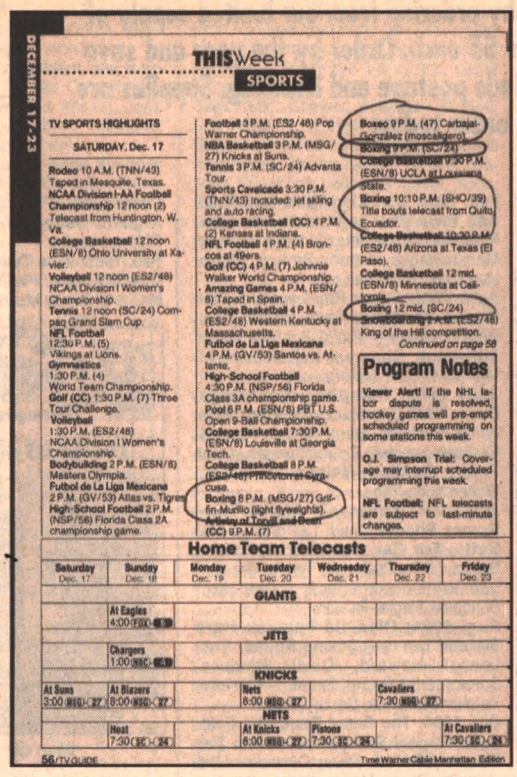
Longtime power broker **Pepe Cordero**, 51, died of a heart attack in his native Puerto Rico. Cordero was a major force in the WBA, and more recently the WBO ... Ring announcer **Gordon Wood**, 42, died of brain cancer. Wood was frequently seen on the USA Network's *Tuesday Night Fights* ... Part-time boxer **Mickey Rourke** is being considered for the lead role in a film about the life of former middleweight champion **Carlos Monzon** ... **Larry Donald** dropped his suit against **Riddick Bowe**, who sucker-punched the heavyweight at a press conference prior to their bout in December. Six days after the fight, won on points by Bowe, the boxers hugged at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., and pledged to work together to help curb violence in American cities.

THE PUNCHLINE

"Yeah, I'll *fight* George Foreman. But I'm not gonna try and *hurt* him."

–IBF super middleweight champion Roy Jones

HEY, NBC: WHO NEEDS YA?



DECEMBER 17-23

THISWeek SPORTS

TV SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

SATURDAY, Dec. 17

Rodeo 10 A.M. (TNN/43) Taped in Mesquite, Texas.
NCAA Division I-AA Football Championship 12 noon (2) Telecast from Huntington, W. Va.
College Basketball 12 noon (ESN/8) Ohio University at Xavier.
Volleyball 12 noon (ES2/48) NCAA Division I Women's Championship.
Tennis 12 noon (SC/24) Compaq Grand Slam Cup.
NFL Football 12:30 P.M. (5) Vikings at Lions.
Gymnastics 1:30 P.M. (4) World Team Championship.
Golf (CC) 1:30 P.M. (7) Three Tour Challenge.
Volleyball 1:30 P.M. (ES2/48) NCAA Division I Women's Championship.
Bodybuilding 2 P.M. (ESN/8) Masters Olympia.
Futbol de La Liga Mexicana 2 P.M. (GV/53) Atlas vs. Tigres.
High-School Football 2 P.M. (NSP/56) Florida Class 2A championship game.
Football 3 P.M. (ES2/46) Pop Warner Championship.
NBA Basketball 3 P.M. (MSG/27) Knicks at Suns.
Tennis 3 P.M. (SC/24) Advanta Tour.
Sports Cavalcade 3:30 P.M. (TNN/43) Included: jet skiing and auto racing.
College Basketball (CC) 4 P.M. (2) Kansas at Indiana.
NFL Football 4 P.M. (4) Broncos at 49ers.
Golf (CC) 4 P.M. (7) Johnnie Walker World Championship.
Amazing Games 4 P.M. (ESN/8) Taped in Spain.
College Basketball 4 P.M. (ES2/48) Western Kentucky at Massachusetts.
Futbol de La Liga Mexicana 4 P.M. (GV/53) Santos vs. Atlante.
High-School Football 4:30 P.M. (NSP/56) Florida Class 3A championship game.
Pool 6 P.M. (ESN/8) PBT U.S. Open 9-Ball Championship.
College Basketball 7:30 P.M. (ESN/8) Louisville at Georgia Tech.
College Basketball 8 P.M. (ES2/46) Princeton at Syracuse.
Boxing 8 P.M. (MSG/27) Griffin-Murillo (light flyweights).
Hockey at Devils and Oceanic (CC) 9 P.M. (7)
Boxeo 9 P.M. (47) Carbajal-González (moscalligero).
Boxing 9 P.M. (SC/24) College Basketball 9:30 P.M. (ESN/8) UCLA at Louisiana State.
Boxing 10:10 P.M. (SHO/39) Title bouts telecast from Quito, Ecuador.
College Basketball 10:30 P.M. (ES2/46) Arizona at Texas (El Paso).
College Basketball 12 mid. (ESN/8) Minnesota at California.
Boxing 12 mid. (SC/24)
Snowboarding 2 A.M. (ES2/46) King of the Hill competition.

Continued on page 56

Program Notes

Viewer Alert! If the NHL labor dispute is resolved, hockey games will pre-empt scheduled programming on some stations this week.

O.J. Simpson Trial: Coverage may interrupt scheduled programming this week.

NFL Football: NFL telecasts are subject to last-minute changes.

Home Team Telecasts

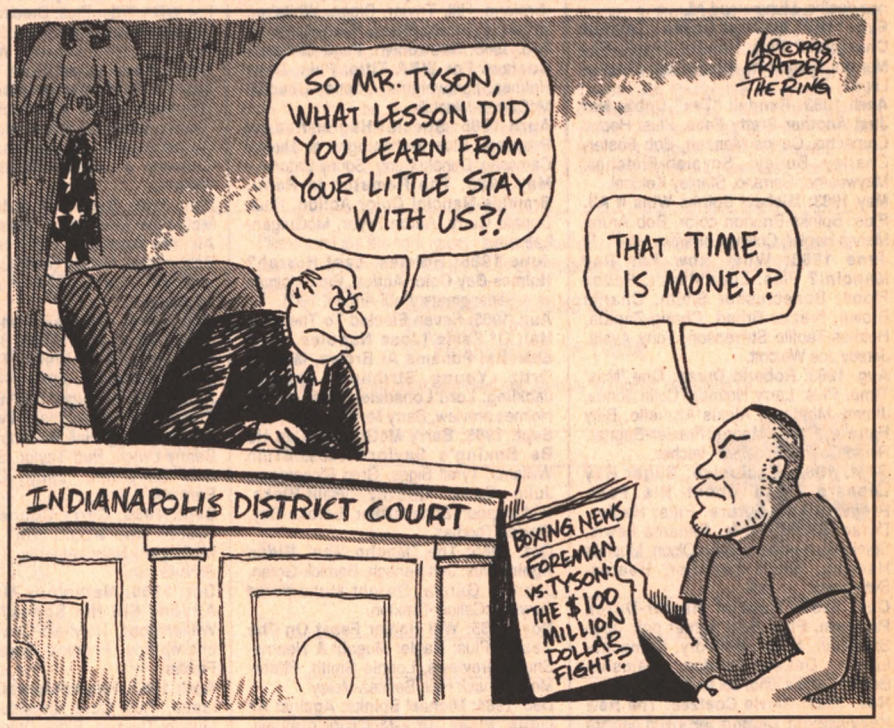
Saturday Dec. 17	Sunday Dec. 18	Monday Dec. 19	Tuesday Dec. 20	Wednesday Dec. 21	Thursday Dec. 22	Friday Dec. 23
			GIANTS			
	At Eagles 4:00 (FOX)					
			JETS			
	Chargers 1:00 (NBC)					
			KNICKS			
At Suns 3:00 (MSG)	At Blazers 9:00 (MSG)		Nets 8:00 (MSG)		Cavaliers 7:30 (MSG)	
			NETS			
	Heat 7:30 (SC)		At Knicks 8:00 (MSG)	Pistons 7:30 (SC)		At Cavaliers 7:30 (SC)

56/TV GUIDE

Time Warner Cable Manhattan Edition

So boxing's suffering through a down period, huh? You might not get that impression if you're a New York City cable-TV subscriber. On a Saturday night in December, there were no less than *five* boxing shows over a four-hour stretch. Granted, only one of the shows was live (Showtime's broadcast of Hopkins-Mercado and Liles-Nunn), but watching even taped fights beats suffering through an episode of *Sisters*. Which one did you say used to be Springsteen's wife?

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



Back Issues of The RING

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April 1980: Pulling No Punches: Exclusive Interview With Vito Antuofermo. Plus: Danny Lopez, cruiserweights, Olympic boycott, Ken Norton, James Scott, Salvador Sanchez, Spinks-Evangelista, Arguello-Castillo.

Aug. 1981: Wilfred Benitez: Triple Crown Champ. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Roberto Duran, Henry Armstrong, Bob Fitzsimmons, Davey Moore, Benitez-Hope, Page-Evangelista, Hagler-Antuofermo II, Hamsho-Minter.

Oct. 1981: Holmes-Cooney: Is It Is Or Is It Ain't? Plus: Best Fighter, hard-hitting heavyweights, who's who in each division, Donald Curry, Spinks-Muhammad, Chandler-Solis, Snipes-Coetzee, boxing on TV, Rocky Graziano, Sugar Ray Leonard.

Feb. 1982: Special Holmes-Cooney Program Section. Plus: Irish boxers, Sean O'Grady, Ali, Pedroza-Ballas, Braxton-Muhammad, Pedroza-Sibaca, Sanchez-Cowdell, Best of The Ring Anthology.

March 1982: Sanchez & Leonard: Fighters Of The Year! Plus: special year-end 100-page issue, fight, round, and upsets of year, Dwight Braxton, Benitez-Duran, Czyz-Sims, Pedroza-LaPorte.

Aug. 1982: Cooney: Is He The Real McCoy? Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard pinup, Holmes-Cooney coverage, Howard Davis, British heavyweights, Larry Holmes, Limon-Navarette.

Jan. 1983: Pryor-Arguello: Fight Of The Year. Plus: Frank "Animal" Fletcher, Dwight Braxton-Michael Spinks preview, ring deaths, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Ray Mancini, Bum of the Month Club, Chacon-Limon.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Carlos Monzon, Bob Foster, Charley Burley, Scypion-Fletcher, Mayweather-Serrano, Stanley Ketchel.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

June 1983: What Now For Ray Mancini? Plus: Lupe Pintor, Paddy Flood, Bonecrusher Smith, Charlie Brown, Frazier-Broad, Chang-Zapata, Holmes-Teofilo Stevenson, Tony Ayala, Jersey Joe Walcott.

Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One "Mas' Time. Plus: Larry Holmes, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle, Duran-Moore, Frazier-Bugner, Resto-Collins, Escalera-Hatcher.

Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, And Future. Plus: Hagler-Duran, Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler, Hearns-Sutherland.

Oct. 1983: Special Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Jose Sulaiman, Milton McCrory, Camacho-Limon, DeLeon-Gordon, Hamsho-Benitez, who's who, Bill McNeese.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: Ring's ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comeback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: Olympic Special: Mark Breland Leads A Strong Squad. Plus: Leonard-Howard, Davila-Sanchez, Bonecrusher-Bruno, Bramble-Mancini, Hatcher-Bumphus, Garza-Orozco.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, boxing's best, James Broad, Julian Jackson, Pinklon Thomas.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Truth Williams, Tyrell Biggs, Greg Richardson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Paul-Blake, Witherspoon-Bonecrusher, Berbick-Bey, Pinklon Thomas.

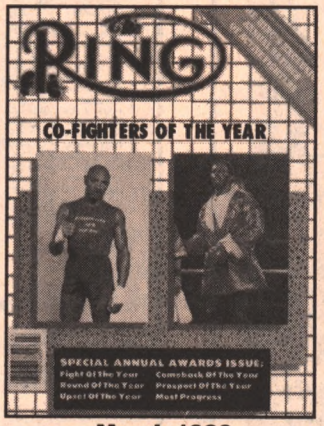
Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Jeff Fenech, Berbick-Green, John E. Garcia, Dwight Muhammad Qawi, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.



March 1986

March 1986 (Awards Issue): Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Ring's Annual Awards, Evander Holyfield, Williamson-Muhammad, Camacho-Roach, 1985 boxing diary.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple Crown. Plus: McCallum-Curry, Carlos Monzon interview, triple champions, Orlin & Terry Norris, Ramirez-Alli, Fenech-Richardson, Matthew Hilton.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Rocky Lockridge & Roger Mayweather, Panama, Tony Burton, Chavez-Rosario, Gervacio-Espinoza, Vaca-Honeyghan.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: Carlos Monzon, Mike Tyson, Leonard-Duran, Daniel Zaragoza, Nunn-Barkley, Whitaker-Ramirez, George Foreman (color).

Feb. 1990: Mike Tyson: Riddick Bowe & Ray Mercer Take Aim. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Chuck Wepner, Antonio Esparragoza, Roman-Laciar.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker: Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Tiger Flowers, Duran-Leonard, Chavez-Taylor preview, Jorge Paez, Ali-Cooper.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough: "Tyson Won't Be That Difficult!" Plus: Ed Hopson, Russian fighters, grudge wars, Archie Moore, Kid Berg, Marcel Cerdan, Chavez-Cortes.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before," By Evander Holyfield. Plus: James Toney, Buddy McGirt, Glenwood Brown, Aaron Davis, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan, Mark Breland, Ali-Liston II (color).

Aug. 1990: Chavez: His Greatness Confirmed ... Is He The Best Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, John L. Sullivan & Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Cus D'Amato, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Thanks For The Memories: Rocky Graziano, 1922-1990. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike Tyson, Napoles-Leonard, A Gathering Of Champions (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Marciano-LaStarza, boxing's best chins, Azumah Nelson, Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ, But ... Plus: Dempsey-Firpo, Charles Murray, Khaosai Galaxy, Nunn-Curry, Henry Armstrong, Sonny Liston (color).

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Late, Still The Fight Of The Century (color). Plus: fighting at home, Mark McPherson, George Costner, Rolando Pascua, Tony Canzoneri.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Foreman-Holyfield preview, Norris-Leonard, David Kamau, Freddie Steele, Bennie Briscoe, Leonard's career (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color). Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Face These Guys? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Leonard's career, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).

March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).

April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, All-Time Top 10: Argentina, Fighters of the Year (color).

June 1993: Riddick Bowe: The Man, By LeRoy Nieman. Plus: All-Time Top 10: Ireland, Paul Hodkinson, Ray Mercer, Toney-Barkley, Kennedy McKinney, LeRoy Nieman (color).

Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 hardest punchers, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

Oct. 1993: Tommy Morrison: Good Enough To Beat Big George, But Will He Win The Heavyweight Title? Plus: Riddick Bowe, Mike Capriano, Billy Conn-Joe Louis, All-Time Top 10: Puerto Rico, Charles Murray.

Dec. 1993: What If Mike Tyson Had Never Gone To Jail? Plus: Freddie Pendleton, Michael Moorer & Tommy Morrison, Willie Pep, Ed Dunkhorst, All-Time Top 10: Cuba, Tyson-Spinks (color).

Jan. 1994: Was Pernell Whitaker Robbed In San Antonio? Plus: Azumah Nelson, Willis Britt, State of the Game.

Feb. 1994: The British Are Coming! Does America Have Anything To Worry About? Plus: Felix Trinidad, Junior Jones, fight clubs (part I), Toney-Hearns.

March 1994: Evander Holyfield's Formula For Success—Obsession + Guts = Fulfillment. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Bentt, Kronk, boxing novels, All-Time Top 10: Wales, fight clubs (part II).

April 1994: Michael Carbajal: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Brown-Norris, Kevin Kelley, Ceferino Garcia, Oscar De La Hoya, Tunney Hunsaker, Spinks-Foster.

May 1994 (92-Page Special) Division-By-Division: The Greatest Fighters Of All-Time. Plus: Virgil Hill & Orlando Canizales, Kostya Tszyu, James Toney, What If ... Dempsey vs. Wills.

June 1994: Moorer-Holyfield: Slugfest Or Stinker? Plus: Terry Norris, Paul Pender, Randall-Chavez I, Gonzales-Carbajal II, kickboxing.

July 1994: "I Wanna Be Like Sugar Ray": Oscar De La Hoya Becomes A Prime-Time Player. Plus: Nigel Benn, Gianfranco Rosi, Sullivan-McCaffrey, Donald-Williams, 10 likely upsets, All-Time Top 10: England.

Aug. 1994: Bowe's Back! Determined To Do It Again. Plus: Eric Griffin, Pernell Whitaker, Ray Mercer, Roger Donoghue, State of the Game (midterm report), All-Time Top 10: The Philippines.

Sept. 1994 (92-Page Special): How Michael Moorer Defeated Evander Holyfield, By Teddy Atlas! Plus: Chavez-Randall II, Lennox Lewis, Mando Ramos, all-time greatest cards, What If ... Duran vs. Arguello, All-Time Top 10: Scotland.

Oct. 1994: Rating The Champs: Whitaker & Toney Lead The Field ... But Roy Jones Is Closing Fast. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Meldrick Taylor, Rafael Ruelas, Curtis Cokes.

Nov. 1994: With Lewis Fighting Bowe ... Is Michael Moorer's Career Off-Target? Plus: Wayne McCullough, Hall of Fame, Alejandro Lavorante, Rocky Marciano, Paz-Duran, Injuries (part I), What If ... Pedroza vs. Sanchez.

Dec. 1994: Fighting-Mad! James Toney Just Wants To Beat People Up. Plus: Duran & Robinson, Don King, Mike McCallum, Injuries (part II), Tom Molineaux.

Winter 1994 (92-Page Special): Mike Tyson: An Exclusive Interview From Behind Bars. Plus: Best of the last 100 years, Jones-Toney preview, Injuries (part III), Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Jack Sharkey, What If ... Galindez-Conteh.

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THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended January 1, 1995

George Foreman

Herbie Hide

Montell Griffin

Vincent Pettway

Giovanni Parisi

Yuri Arbachakov

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **GEORGE FOREMAN** — Houston, TX *73-4 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **OLIVER McCALL** — Chicago, IL *25-5 (WBC Champ)*
3. **RIDDICK BOWE** — Fort Washington, MD *35-1*
4. **MICHAEL MOORER** — Detroit, MI *35-0*
5. **LENNOX LEWIS** — England *25-1*
6. **HERBIE HIDE** — England *26-0*
7. **LARRY HOLMES** — Easton, PA *61-4*
8. **HENRY AKINWANDE** — England *24-0-1*
9. **JORGE LUIS GONZALEZ** — Las Vegas, NV *22-0*
10. **LIONEL BUTLER** — Houston, TX *22-10-1*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS** — Campo, CA *42-3 (WBA Champ)*
2. **AL COLE** — Spring Valley, NY *25-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **ANACLET WAMBA** — France *45-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **ADOLPHO WASHINGTON** — Lexington, KY *24-2-2*
5. **SERGEI KOBOZEV** — Brooklyn, NY *20-0*
6. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** — Germany *25-0*
7. **CARL THOMPSON** — England *18-3*
8. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** — Las Vegas, NV *22-3-1*
9. **NORBERT EKASSI** — France *22-4-1*
10. **KENNY KEENE** — Emmett, ID *30-0*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL** — Bismarck, ND *39-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **MIKE McCALLUM** — Brooklyn, NY *47-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **HENRY MASKE** — Germany *25-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **JAMES TONEY** — Ann Arbor, MI *44-0-2*
5. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS** — Mansfield, OH *36-6-2*
6. **FABRICE TIOZZO** — France *30-1*
7. **EGERTON MARCUS** — Canada *14-0*
8. **FRANK TATE** — Houston, TX *34-4*
9. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** — Chicago, IL *14-0*
10. **JEFF HARDING** — Australia *23-2*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** — Pensacola, FL *27-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **NIGEL BENN** — England *39-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **CHRIS EUBANK** — England *41-0-2*
4. **FRANK LILES** — N. Hollywood, CA *26-1 (WBA Champ)*
5. **VINNY PAZIENZA** — Cranston, RI *39-5*
6. **TIM LITTLES** — Flint, MI *24-1*
7. **MICHAEL NUNN** — Davenport, IA *43-3*
8. **RAY CLOSE** — N. Ireland *20-3-1*
9. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** — Germany *37-1*
10. **ANTOINE BYRD** — Los Angeles, CA *26-4-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **GERALD McCLELLAN** — Freeport, IL *31-2 (WBC Champ)*
2. **JORGE CASTRO** — Argentina *96-4-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **BERNARD HOPKINS** — Philadelphia, PA *26-2-1*
4. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON** — Seattle, WA *32-1*
5. **REGGIE JOHNSON** — Houston, TX *35-4-1*
6. **QUINCY TAYLOR** — Dallas, TX *23-3*
7. **SEGUNDO MERCADO** — Ecuador *18-2-1*
8. **STEVE COLLINS** — Ireland *28-3*
9. **JOE LIPSEY** — Lansing, MI *24-0*
10. **AGOSTINO CARDAMONE** — Italy *24-0*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ** — Argentina 52-1 (WBA Champ)
2. **TERRY NORRIS** — Mission Valley, CA 38-5
3. **VINCENT PETTWAY** — Baltimore, MD 37-4-1 (IBF Champ)
4. **VERNO PHILLIPS** — New York, NY 24-4-1
5. **GIANFRANCO ROSI** — Italy 57-4-1
6. **JULIO CESAR GREEN** — Brooklyn, NY 18-1
7. **SIMON BROWN** — Mount Airy, MD 42-3
8. **CARL DANIELS** — St. Louis, MO 32-1
9. **JAVIER CASTILLEJO** — Spain 36-2
10. **RAUL MARQUEZ** — Houston, TX 18-0

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER** — Norfolk, VA 34-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD** — Puerto Rico 25-0 (IBF Champ)
3. **IKE QUARTEY** — Ghana 27-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **BUDDY McGIRT** — Hauppauge, NY 64-4-1
5. **CRISANTO ESPANA** — N. Ireland 30-1
6. **YORI BOY CAMPAS** — Mexico 56-1
7. **WILFREDO RIVERA** — Puerto Rico 19-0-1
8. **OBA CARR** — Detroit, MI 32-1
9. **DERRELL COLEY** — Capitol Heights, MD 25-0-2
10. **EAMONN LOUGHRAN** — Ireland 24-1-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **FRANKIE RANDALL** — Warren, OH 51-3-1 (WBA Champ)
2. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ** — Mexico 92-1-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **JAKE RODRIGUEZ** — Brentwood, NY 26-2-2 (IBF Champ)
4. **KOSTYA TSZYU** — Australia 13-0
5. **JUAN COGGI** — Argentina 67-3-2
6. **DAVID KAMAU** — Los Angeles, CA 25-0
7. **GIOVANNI PARISI** — Italy 29-1
8. **RAY OLIVEIRA** — Falls River, MA 23-5
9. **DARRYLL TYSON** — Washington, D.C. 44-6-1
10. **JAN BERGMAN** — South Africa 25-0

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ** — Mexico 35-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **RAFAEL RUELAS** — Arleta, CA 42-1 (IBF Champ)
3. **NAZAROV OLZUBEK** — Japan 20-0 (WBA Champ)
4. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** — Montebello, CA 16-0
5. **MIGUEL JULIO** — Colombia 28-1-1
6. **LEAVANDER JOHNSON** — Atlantic City, NJ 22-1-1
7. **SHANE MOSLEY** — Pomona, CA 16-0
8. **STEVE JOHNSTON** — Denver, CO 13-0
9. **BILLY SCHWER** — England 26-1
10. **IVAN ROBINSON** — Delran, NJ 16-0

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA** — Puerto Rico 36-3 (IBF Champ)
2. **GABE RUELAS** — Arleta, CA 39-2 (WBC Champ)
3. **GENARO HERNANDEZ** — Los Angeles, CA 31-0-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **JESSE JAMES LEIJA** — San Antonio, TX 28-1-2
5. **AZUMAH NELSON** — Ghana 37-3-2
6. **FREDDIE LIBERATORE** — Bayside, NY 20-3-1
7. **REGGIE TUUR** — Whitestone, NY 36-3-1
8. **ARTURO GATTI** — Jersey City, NJ 19-1
9. **VICTOR HUGO PAZ** — Argentina 51-1-1
10. **ED HOPSON** — St. Louis, MO 25-0

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **KEVIN KELLEY** — Flushing, NY 41-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **TOM JOHNSON** — Detroit, MI 37-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. **STEVE ROBINSON** — Wales 19-9-1
4. **ELOY ROJAS** — Venezuela 30-1-1 (WBA Champ)
5. **YUNG KYUN PARK** — South Korea 28-2-1
6. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ** — Mexico 34-2
7. **TRACY PATTERSON** — Highland, NY 51-3-1
8. **EVER BELENO** — Colombia 29-1
9. **ORLANDO SOTO** — Panama 24-1
10. **MANUEL MEDINA** — Mexico 49-5

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **VUYANI BUNGU** — South Africa 25-2 (IBF Champ)
2. **WILFREDO VASQUEZ** — Puerto Rico 41-6-3 (WBA Champ)
3. **HECTOR ACERO-SANCHEZ** — New York, NY 31-2-2 (WBC Champ)
4. **JULIO GERVACIO** — Puerto Rico 30-3-2
5. **KENNEDY McKINNEY** — Las Vegas, NV 27-1-1
6. **WELCOME NCITA** — South Africa 33-2
7. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA** — Mexico 34-0
8. **JESUS SALUD** — San Diego, CA 49-6
9. **JUAN POLO-PEREZ** — Colombia 35-10-2
10. **EDDIE CROFT** — San Mateo, CA 21-1-1

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **ORLANDO CANIZALES** — Laredo, TX 38-1-1
2. **YASUEI YAKUSHIJI** — Japan 23-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **DAORUNG MP PETROLEUM** — Thailand 54-4-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH** — Las Vegas, NV 15-0
5. **NASEEM HAMED** — England 15-0
6. **ELIECER JULIO** — Colombia 28-1
7. **SERGIO REYES** — Fort Worth, TX 10-1
8. **AL KOTEY** — England 19-1
9. **NANA KONADU** — Ghana 33-2
10. **HAROLD MESTRE** — Colombia 20-2

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **HAROLD GREY** — Colombia 18-0 (IBF Champ)
2. **HIROSHI KAWASHIMA** — Japan 15-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. **JOHNNY TAPIA** — Albuquerque, NM 28-0-1
4. **DANNY ROMERO** — Albuquerque, NM 22-0
5. **HYUNG CHUL LEE** — South Korea 18-4 (WBA Champ)
6. **JULIO BORBOA** — Mexico 23-5
7. **KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM** — Thailand 49-4
8. **KATSUYA ONIZUKA** — Japan 24-1
9. **CECILIO ESPINO** — Huntington Park, CA 29-3-1
10. **DAVID GRIMAN** — Venezuela 20-2

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **YURI ARBACHAKOV** — Japan 19-0 (WBC Champ)
2. **SAN SOR PLOENCHIT** — Thailand 21-0 (WBA Champ)
3. **MARK JOHNSON** — Washington, D.C. 21-1
4. **MIGUEL MARTINEZ** — Mexico 27-7-1
5. **JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA** — Mexico 23-12-2
6. **ISAIAS ZAMUDIO** — Blythe, CA 37-5-1
7. **JAKE MATLALA** — South Africa 42-9-1
8. **ALBERTO JIMENEZ** — Mexico 27-3-2
9. **ROBBIE REGAN** — Wales 15-1-3
10. **CHATCHAI ELITE-GYM** — Thailand 17-0

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ** — Mexico 40-2 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL** — Phoenix, AZ 32-2
3. **LEO GAMEZ** — Venezuela 27-3-1 (WBA Champ)
4. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO** — Mexico 42-4-4
5. **CARLOS MURILLO** — Panama 27-2
6. **JESUS CHONG** — Mexico 27-5
7. **JOSE DeJESUS** — Puerto Rico 29-2-1
8. **ERIC GRIFFIN** — Jasper, TN 14-2
9. **ROBINSON CUESTA** — Panama 23-1
10. **HADAO CP GYM** — Thailand 22-9-1

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **PERNELL WHITAKER** — Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES** — Super Middleweight
3. **ORLANDO CANIZALES** — Bantamweight
4. **RICARDO LOPEZ** — Strawweight
5. **CHIQUITA GONZALEZ** — Junior Flyweight
6. **FRANKIE RANDALL** — Junior Welterweight
7. **FELIX TRINIDAD** — Welterweight
8. **GERALD McCLELLAN** — Middleweight
9. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ** — Lightweight
10. **KEVIN KELLEY** — Featherweight

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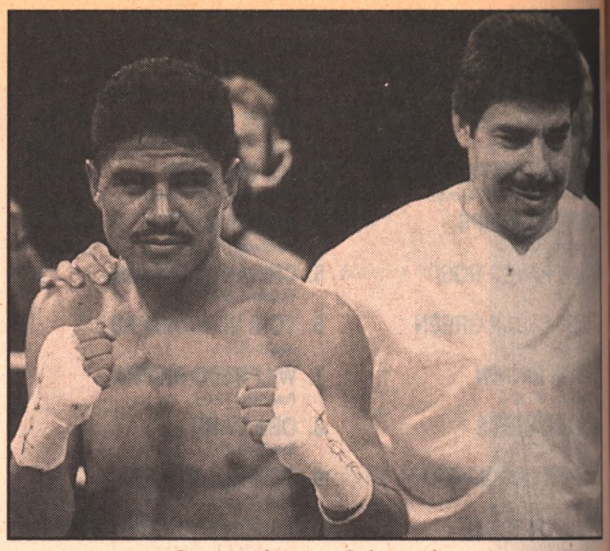


Garcia with trainer Roberto Alcazar

PRO RECORD

1992		
July 15	Tsutomu Hitono, Fukuoka, Japan	KO 2
Sept. 5	Ikuma Shigehara, Tokyo	KO 2
Nov. 20	Jun Berou, Tokyo	KO 5
1993		
March 1	Francisco Arroyo, Inglewood, CA	KO 5
March 22	Victor Flores, Inglewood	W 6
Aug. 5	Abel Hinojosa, Las Vegas	KO 1
Oct. 30	Fred Hernandez, Phoenix	KO 3
Dec. 23	Agapito Navarro, Lakeside, CA	KO 1
1994		
Jan. 9	Hector Diaz, Del Mar, CA	KO 2
Feb. 4	James Dean, Oxnard, CA	KO 2
March 12	Jose Herrera, Los Angeles	W 6
May 20	Gabriel Castro, Los Angeles	W 6
June 24	Raul Contreras, Los Angeles	KO 6
July 29	Orlando Euceda, Las Vegas	KO 6
Aug. 27	Frankie Avelar, Los Angeles	KO 2
Sept. 24	Bobby Brewer, Los Angeles	KO 3
Nov. 18	Derrick Gainer, Las Vegas	W 10
Dec. 10	Roberto Villareal, Los Angeles	KO 5

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
18	18	0	0	14

Robert Garcia

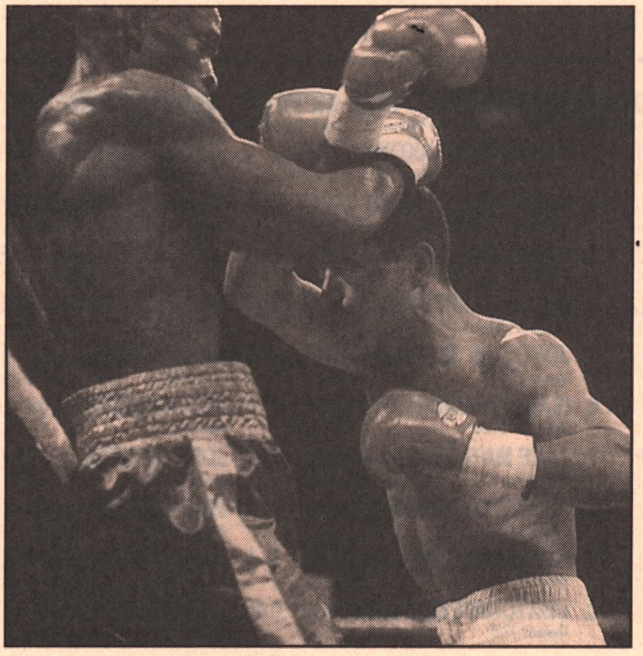
Junior Lightweight

Photos by Tom Casino

By Jake Mattox

1992 was the year Robert Garcia had hoped to travel to Barcelona as a member of the U.S. Olympic Team. Oscar De La Hoya, whom he had known for years, would be there, and hopefully they would both come back to the Los Angeles area as winners; Garcia in the 125-pound class and "The Golden Boy" fighting at 132. When late-summer arrived, and with it the medal rounds of the Olympics, both young men were a long way away from Southern California. De La Hoya was in Spain winning gold. Garcia was also fighting—in Japan.

Until then, it had been a disappointing year for the fighter from Oxnard, California. He had failed in his bid to advance to the Olympic Trials, losing a heartbreaking and disputed decision in the Western Regionals to Guillermo Jorin. Yet, at 17, he was ineligible to turn pro in the U.S. for another year. He didn't even consider waiting four years for the 1996 Olympics, so he made the unusual decision to go to Japan, where he could instantly turn pro.



On the Jones-Toney undercard, Garcia had to reach for Derrick Gainer

"Genaro Hernandez' manager is from Japan, and Genaro was going there to defend his [WBA junior lightweight] title, so I just went with him," explains Garcia. "The crowds were quiet, but after I'd win, they'd smile and ask for autographs."

Three knockout victories and one 18th birthday later, Garcia was back in the States, ready to climb the ranks of the featherweight and junior lightweight divisions.

(Continued on page 55)

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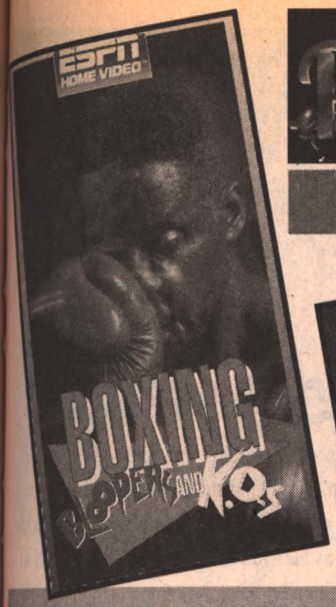

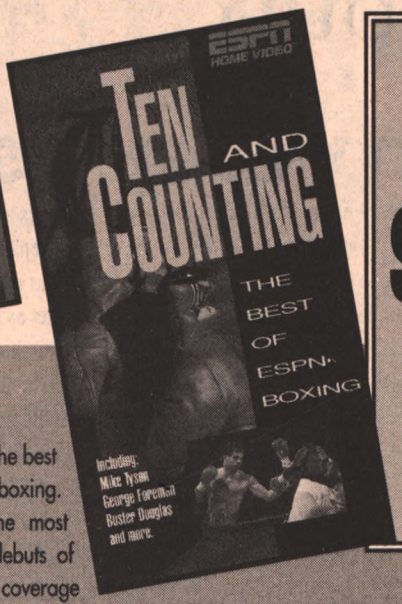

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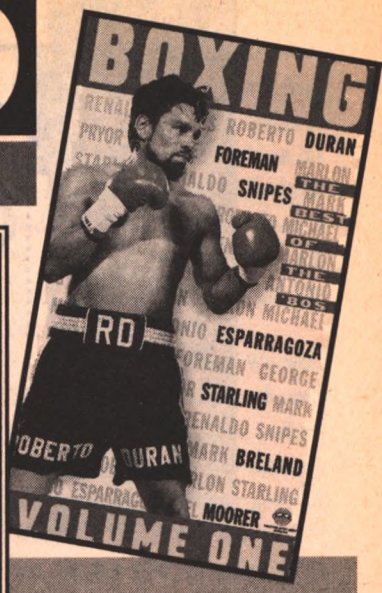

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This hard-hitting video provides an in-depth look at the best peak-action footage of Roberto Duran, George Foreman, Mark Breland, Antonio Esparragoza, Michael Moorer, Marlon Starling, and Renaldo Snipes. **53 minutes**

BEST OF THE '80s—VOLUME 2
This exciting followup to Volume 1 includes ring action of Tim Witherspoon, George Foreman, Aaron Pryor, Roberto Duran, Leslie Stewart, Larry Holmes, and Bobby Czyz. **51 minutes**

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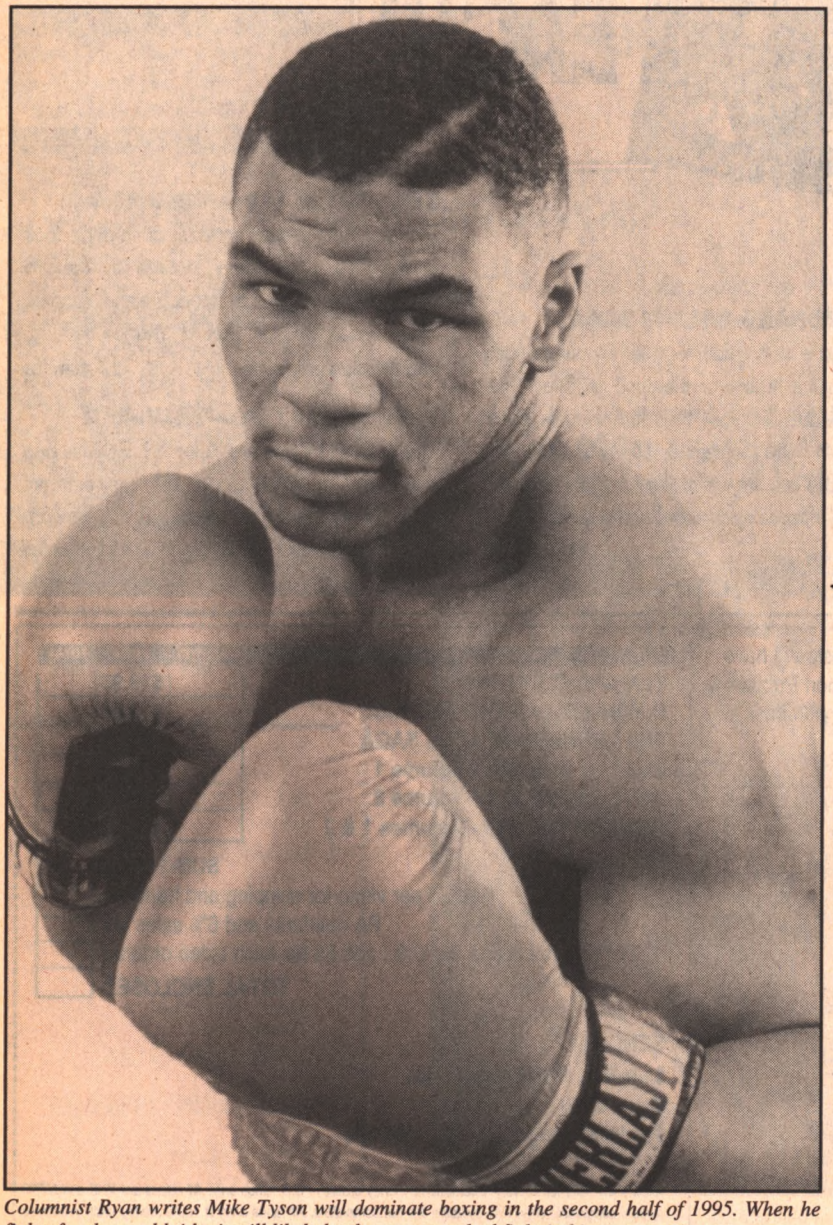
RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

"NEXT YEAR" IS HERE

Okay, so 1994 wasn't the greatest year in the history of turnbuckles and 10-counts. In some ways, however, those were a better 12 months than the not-so-dynamite dozen of 1993. And if you read my column exactly one year ago, you knew they were going to be. That was the column that promised good things in '94, encouraged you pugilistic pessimists to start viewing the spit bucket as half-full instead of half-empty, and so vehemently urged you to "keep hope alive" that it read like it was ghostwritten by Jesse Jackson.



Columnist Ryan writes Mike Tyson will dominate boxing in the second half of 1995. When he fights for the world title, it will likely be the most watched fight in history.

By now you're wondering if there is any good news to report about 1995, right? The answer is yes, there is plenty. Things in the Sweet Science aren't nearly as bad as an empty Madison Square Garden, an epidemic of horrible judging, a Pazienza-Duran rematch, and a heavyweight king who is older than the art of showdowboxing might lead you to believe. Here are the fab five reasons '95 will far outshine its predecessor:

The return of Mike Tyson: It is still unsettling to write about The Grim Raper's release from prison because it's hard to believe that a bum like Tyson can be convicted of rape, get sentenced to six years, and then be released in half that time just because he turned the lights out at 10 every night and didn't leave any streaks when he mopped the dining hall floor.

Of course, this is America, so we can't let the best interests of a civilized society get in the way of the best interests of sports. Viewing it from purely a boxing standpoint, Leg-Iron Mike's comeback will be the single biggest boost the fight game has gotten since Tyson's arrival as a pro in 1985. His tuneups, eventual challenge for the WBC crown, and probable title-unification bout could be the most hyped and watched events in boxing history. When Tyson returns to the ring, boxing—all of it, not just the heavyweight division—will return to the radar screen and be rediscovered by everyone from *Sports Illustrated* to the guy driving your cab.

Assuming Tyson retains something close to the skills he had when he went away in 1992, his presence should have much the same effect on a rudderless heavyweight division that it did during Career I: He'll scare opponents into shape (watch how quickly Bowe's gut melts away), weed out the pretenders (*adios*, Jorge Luis Gonzalez and the like), and unify the championship.

A bad-intentions left hook to the temple. A bone-into-the-brain right uppercut to the nose. Turn out the lights, the parity's over.

Photo by Joy Lash

This could be the year Oscar De La Hoya explodes into a superstar and Julio Cesar Chavez begins to fade into the background. "The Golden Boy" finally has some tough opposition lined up.

George Foreman will start the year as heavyweight champion: When it comes to knowledge of boxing's current events, the general public isn't as dumb as you might think. It's dumber. That's why there is a good side to having the fossilized Foreman wearing a crown. Big George's big butt on the throne might make boxing the big butt of Jay Leno's barbs, but at least the mainstream once again knows the title exists. We know a Harold Lederman can name the heavyweight champion. It's a good sign when a David Letterman can, too.

Roy Jones will take off the wraps: No, he's not going to ditch his hand wraps and engage in 25-round bare-knuckle bouts, a la John L. Sullivan. What he *is* going to do is lift the curtain on his really big shew, a la Ed Sullivan.

Now that Jones has proven to everyone—most importantly, himself—he is one of the two best fighters in the sport, look for those few lingering inhibitions in his game to disappear. Cautious performances, such as the one against Bernard Hopkins, are no more. The let-it-all-hang-out improvisational theater we saw against James Toney will become the norm.

Nigel Benn, Chris Eubank, and Gerald McClellan head Jones' hit list. If that doesn't get your heart racing, maybe this thought will: Jones is still going to get better.

Pernell Whitaker will be better tested ... : "Sweet Pea's" problem is no matter how much he tries to make things tough on himself, they end up being easy. Apparent high-wire walks turn out to be cakewalks. Supposed journeys into the valley of the shadow of darkness become strolls through Disneyland. He moves from lightweight to junior welterweight to welterweight without a hair on his chin being knocked askew. He fights Buddy McGirt in what is expected to be a war-of-attrition rematch, and coasts. He never even gets rocked by Julio Cesar Chavez.

We keep complaining Whitaker has never been forced to tough out a blood-and-guts nail-biter, and we rack our brains trying to come up with a new way for him to prove his greatness. When we think we find one, The Pea goes out and racks his opponent's brain, everybody sighs, and the whole process starts anew.

At least '95's obstacle course looks to be more challenging than the last few. If Ike Quartey can manage to hit Whitaker, things can get interesting because the WBA champion just might be the hardest puncher in the 147-pound ranks. (At worst, he's a not-so-sloppy second behind Felix Trinidad.) In addition to Quartey, Whitaker also plans to challenge WBA junior middleweight titlist Julio Cesar Vasquez, who sports a record of 52-1 (35), is a southpaw like Whitaker, and might force The Pea to add another five to seven pounds to his tiny frame.

Will Whitaker lose either bout? Don't count on it, but maybe, just maybe, we'll see him have to struggle for a change.

... and so will Oscar De La Hoya: Thus far in his star-spangled career, "The Golden Boy" has been dazzling, but we don't quite know what to make out of what we've seen. That's because De La Hoya has employed the Vinny Pazienza Method of Career Advancement: Hype yourself as a future great while beating a collection of opponents that reads like a grocery list—cream puffs, meatballs, tomato cans, and pancakes.

In '95, though, De La Hoya is finally going to start employing the Sugar Ray Leonard Method of Career Advancement: Face the best to establish *yourself* as the best. Stylish IBF junior lightweight champion John-John Molina will be the first question on De La Hoya's mid-term, followed by hard-hitting IBF lightweight titlist Rafael Ruelas. Is De La Hoya as capable of outboxing a cutie as he is of picking apart an onrushing mauler? Were those knockdowns he suffered evidence of a weak chin or just flash flukes? Will the true Los Angeles King prove to be not hockey's Wayne Gretzky, but the kid whose smile is so illuminating, it can raise the ring temperature 20 degrees?

Here's an early Academy Award prediction: De La Hoya will be the biggest Oscar winner of them all in '95 after finally acting the part of a superstar living up to his clippings. ■

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

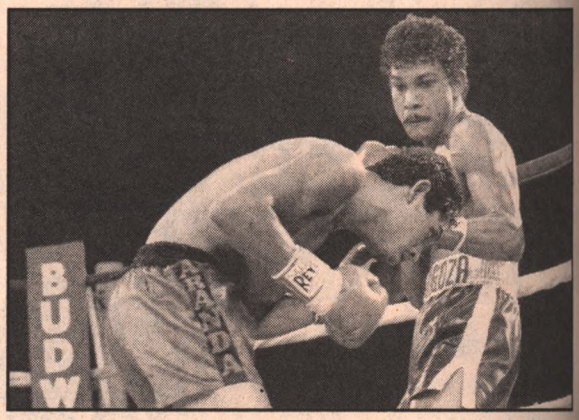
PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: WORLD CHAMPS FROM SOUTH AMERICA

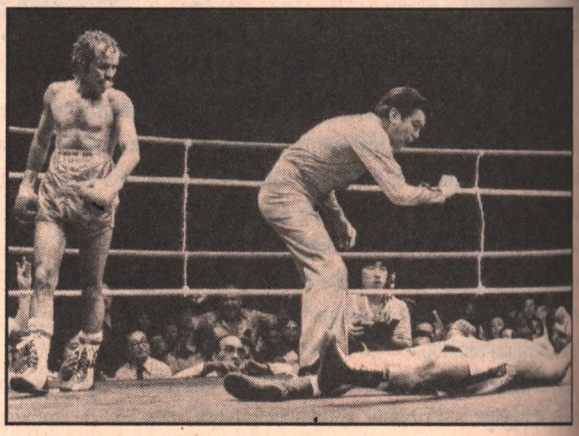
1

It wasn't long ago that this Venezuelan was among the best fighters in the world. We'll even spot you the last four letters of his surname (g-o-z-a).



2

On this one, we'll give you the fighter's entire *first* name (Betulio). Though most American fight fans never saw him in action, he was one of the best flyweights of the last 25 years.



3

Throughout his career, poor Albert Davila (left) had to contend with the likes of this outstanding bantamweight, who reigned in the late-'80s.

YOUR BOXING IQ

4

Who knows, maybe if Carlos Monzon had come along at a different time, this middleweight would be remembered as one of the best 160-pounders ever.

5

Don't let the Band-Aid fool you: This Argentine was one of the greatest defensive specialists in ring history. On this year's hall of fame ballot, we placed a check mark next to his name.

6

Nothing like a bright, wide smile for the camera. This Argentine southpaw remains active. In fact, he lost his title just a few months ago.

7

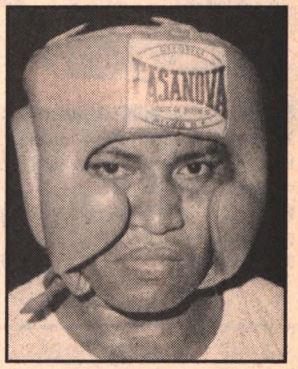
You can look it up: There were indeed a handful of middleweight champions who reigned after Carlos Monzon and before Marvin Hagler. This stylist, who was never, ever described as exciting, was one of them.

8

Venezuela has produced its share of exceptional champions. This titlist from the '60s defeated, among others, Joe Brown, Kenny Lane, Eddie Perkins, and Paolo Rosi.

9

While we're focusing on Venezuela, this champion of the early-'70s reigned for one year, then ran into the fists of one of the greatest punchers ever.



10

We've decided to include one current titlist. Sorry, but that's the only hint we're offering. After all, it's not like there are 50 world champs or anything ...

ANSWERS:

1) Antonio Esparragoza
2) Betulio Gonzalez
3) Miguel "Happy" Lora
4) Rodrigo Valdes
5) Nicolino Locche
6) Juan Coggi
7) Hugo Corro
8) Carlos Hernandez
9) Vicente Rondon
10) Julio Cesar Vasquez

The Ring Sportswear Collection

The Ring Tradition continues ...

Over the past 70 years, *The Ring* has established a tradition of unsurpassed excellence. That tradition continues with *The Ring* Sportswear Collection, featuring the highest quality apparel available!

T-SHIRT: You'll look like a world champ when wearing The Ring T-shirt. This quality "T" is the standard by which all others are judged. This preshrunk cotton shirt features a three color logo - red, white, & gold - on a black shirt or red, black, & gold on a white shirt. Available in black or white.
Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL **$14.95**

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BASEBALL CAP: You'll be the envy of your friends when you wear this sporty baseball cap. Constructed of 100% cotton, this cap includes a leather strap back-size adjuster and a front cord braid. Available in black only.
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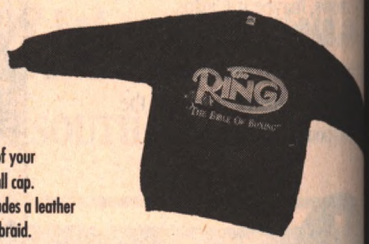
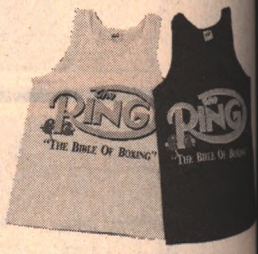


CREW NECK SWEAT SHIRT: When it comes to sweat shirts, this is the undisputed champion. The sweat is 90% cotton/10% polyester and is definitely in the heavyweight division of sweat shirts. Features include an extra full cut, body side panels, set-in sleeves, and our three color logo (red, white, & gold). Available in black only. in sleeves. Available in black only.
Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL **$29.95**

BOXING DESIGN SHIRT: Custom made for The Ring collection, this sporty shirt features a unique boxing print on both the front and back. Constructed of high-quality 100% cotton, the design is silk screened in gray on a white background. Available in gray on white only.
Sizes: S, M, L, XL **$19.95**

HOODED SWEAT SHIRT: Excellent for those early-morning runs, The Ring hooded sweat shirt is constructed of 90% cotton/10% polyester. This high quality crossknit design features a hood with drawstring, front pouch, extra full cut, bodyside panels and set-in sleeves. Available in black only.
Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL **$34.95**

BASEBALL JERSEY: Talk about sporty! The Ring baseball jersey scores big with a two color combination...black with red trim. This 100% all cotton, button down jersey features an embroidered four-color replica of The Ring logo.
Sizes: S, M, XL, XXL
$34.95



TANK TOP: This quality tank top is guaranteed to survive the most brutal workouts both in the gym and the ring. Made of 100% cotton, this tank is sure to go the distance. Available in black or white.
Sizes: S, M, L, XL **$14.95**

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Design Shirt		**gray**		
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Baseball Jersey		**black**		
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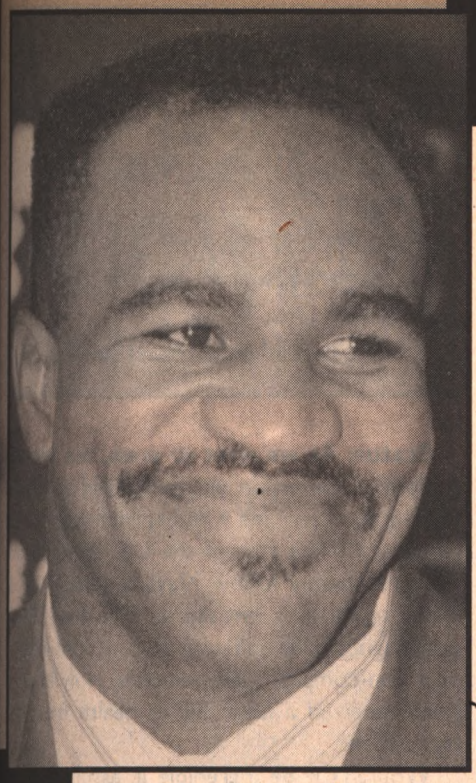
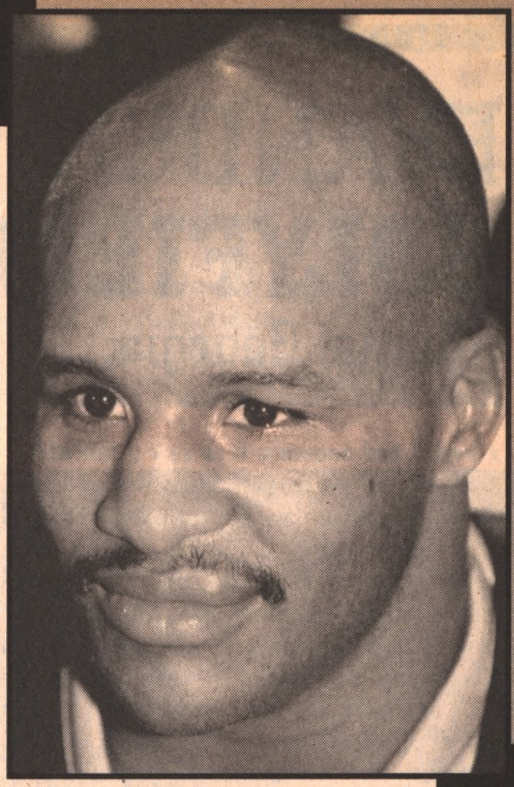




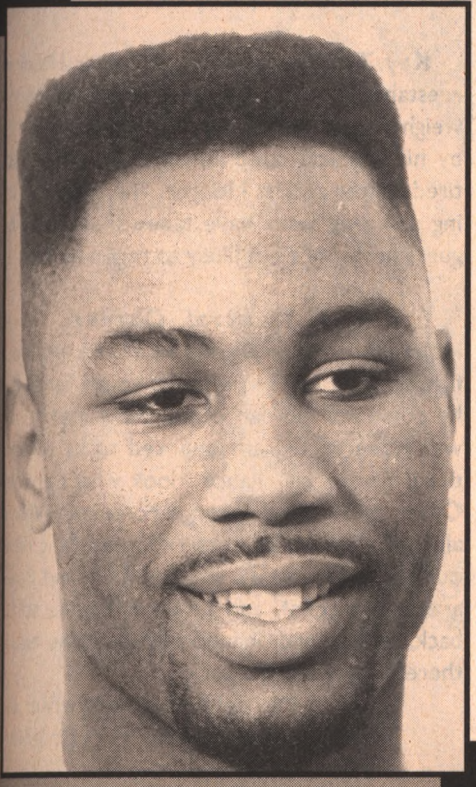
HOLYFIELD, MOORER, LEWIS, & BOWE

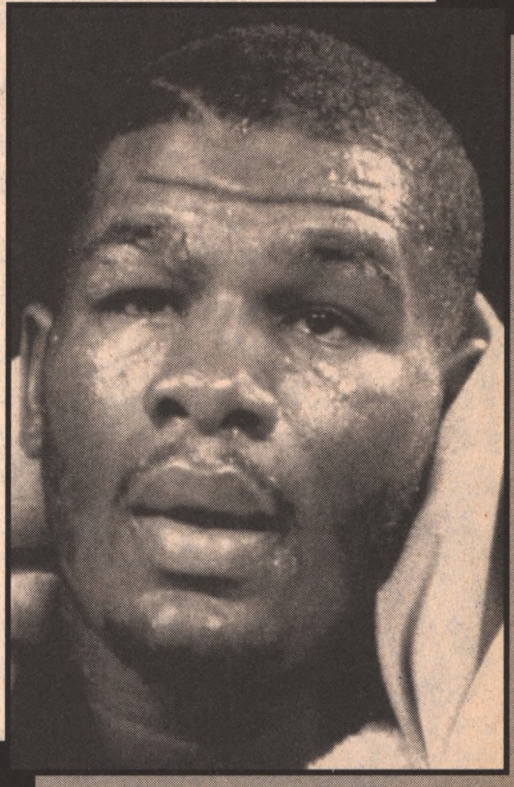
Are They Yesterday's News Or Tomorrow's Champions?

By Steve Farhood

In a heavyweight world ruled by George Foreman and Oliver McCall, Evander Holyfield, Michael Moorer, Lennox Lewis, and Riddick Bowe have more in common than you might think. For starters, they're all former world champions with similar records. Secondly, their prospects for title shots aren't very good. And finally, and perhaps most significantly, they just might be the four best heavyweights in the world.

Here, then, is a look, fighter-by-fighter, at a frustrated foursome.





EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Atlanta, Georgia

FACT BOX
Record: 30-2 (22)
Age: 32
Last Date Champ: April 22, 1994
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 215
Manager: Self-managed
Trainer: Don Turner
Promoter: Main Events, Hammer

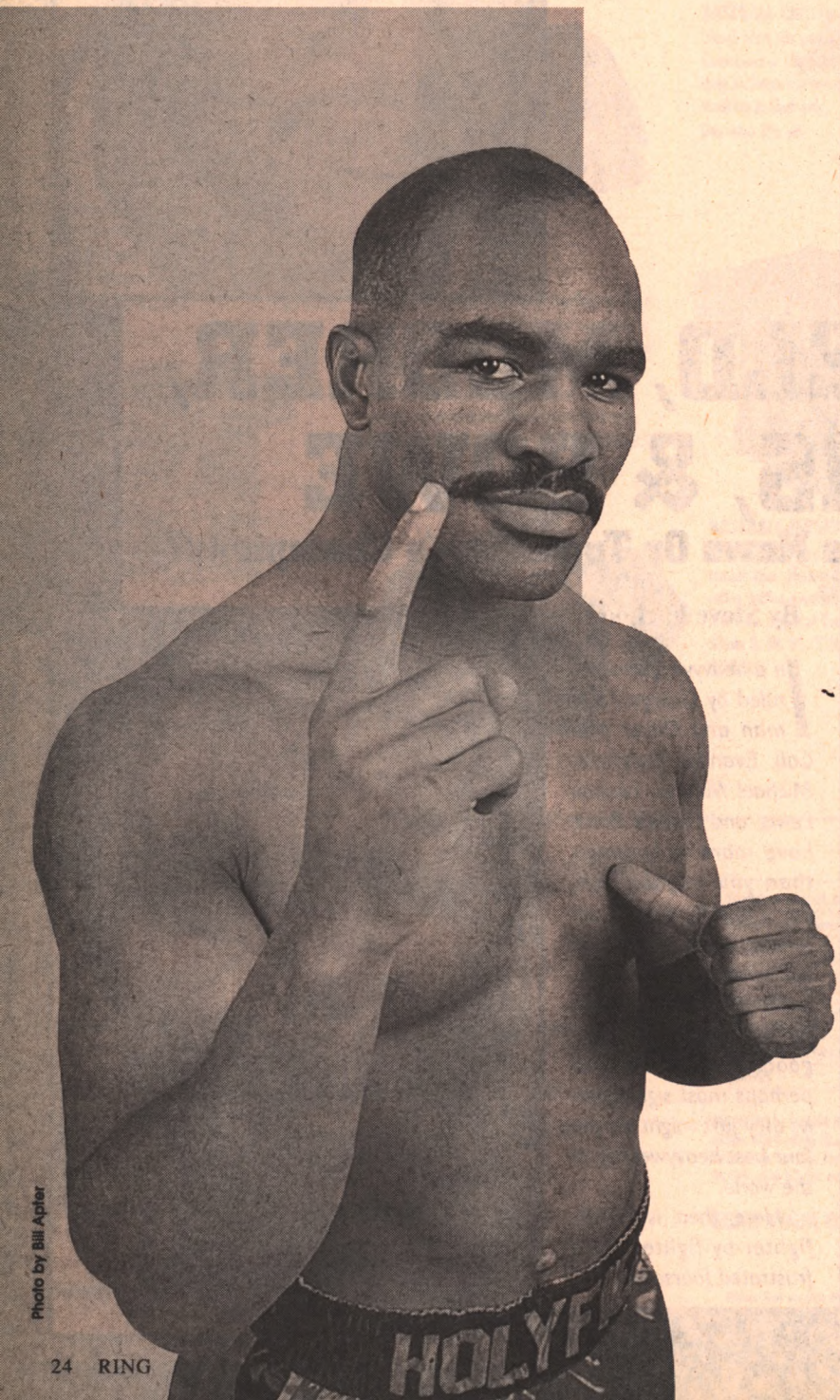


Photo by Bill Apter

Status: As we went to press, the Nevada Athletic Commission was scheduled to hold a hearing to determine whether Holyfield will be relicensed. (The rest of the U.S. commissions will presumably follow Nevada's lead.) After losing to Moorer last April, "The Real Deal" was diagnosed as suffering from a "stiff heart," or a non-compliant left ventricle. Holyfield has since received a clean bill of health from the Mayo Clinic.

Wouldn't it be incredible if, assuming he is deemed medically fit, Holyfield secures the oft-postponed showdown with Mike Tyson? He's acknowledged that such a matchup is part of his motivation, as is his desire to conclude his career in conjunction with the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

Should Holyfield be green-lighted, look for him to return in March against a mid-level opponent on HBO. After that, he's be in a strong position to quickly move further ahead.

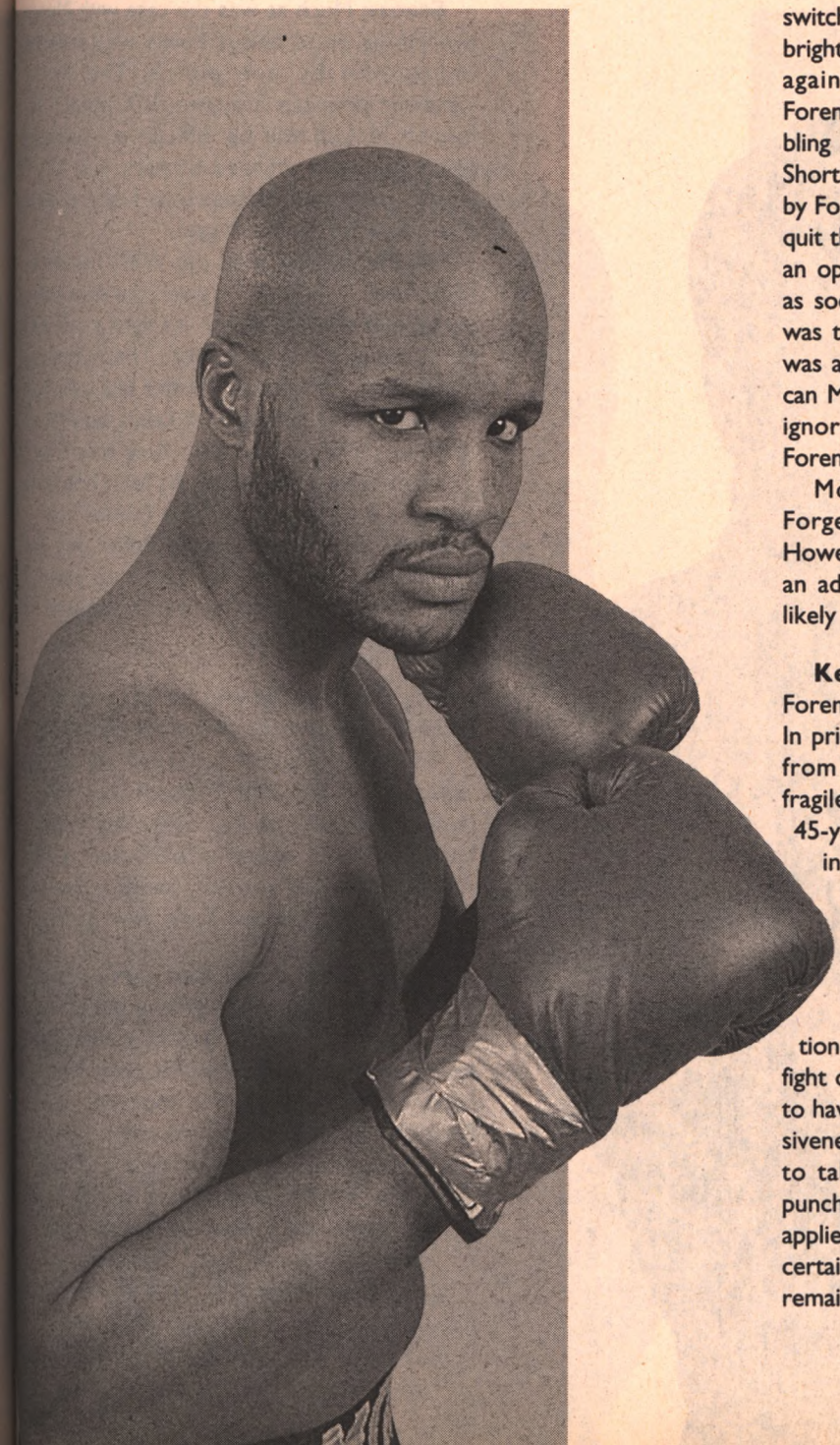
Key To The Future: Whether Holyfield reestablishes himself as one of the top heavyweights in the world will be determined solely by his physical condition. He looked an old, tired fighter against Moorer. The intense training and ring wars have taken their toll. The guess here: He's not likely to regain his form.

From A Neutral Corner: "Sure, Holyfield could very easily be a tired, worn-out fighter. He's been in a lot of tough fights. But he could still be dangerous. How many times was Roberto Duran supposed to be old and tired? As for his chances, look what's around: Oliver McCall and George Foreman? What if all that was wrong in the Moorer fight turns out to be Holyfield's shoulder? He and Bowe are about equal, and Lewis has gone so far back, he's behind Shannon Briggs. Who else is there? I say welcome back."

–Michael Katz, boxing writer and columnist for the New York *Daily News*

MICHAEL MOORER

Detroit, Michigan



FACT BOX
Record: 35-1 (30)
Age: 27
Last Date Champ: November 5, 1994
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 220
Manager: John Davimos
Trainer: Teddy Atlas
Promoter: Main Events

Status: It was as if someone had flicked a switch: One moment, Moorer was secure in the brightness generated by his title-winning effort against Holyfield and nine-plus rounds vs. Foreman. The next, he was cold and lost, stumbling in the darkness reserved for kayo losers. Shortly after being unceremoniously dethroned by Foreman, Moorer announced his intention to quit the ring and take up law enforcement. Such an option wasn't to be taken seriously; almost as soon as he was counted out, the southpaw was talking of a rematch with Foreman. There was a return clause in their contract, but what can Moorer really do if Big George chooses to ignore it? Besides, the WBA will likely strip Foreman before Moorer gets that far.

Moorer will return in March on HBO. Forget about a second bout with Foreman. However, time remains an ally, which gives him an advantage over Holyfield, and politics isn't likely to slow his progress, as it might Bowe.

Key To The Future: Even before the Foreman knockout, Moorer's chin was suspect. In prior bouts, however, he made sure to rise from the canvas. Moorer is psychologically fragile, and the effects of being crushed by a 45-year-old grandfather may be overwhelming. Should he fail to recover, it won't be a lack of boxing or punching skills that cost him. His future will likely be decided solely by how well he can take a punch.

From A Neutral Corner: "The question regarding Moorer is whether he wants to fight or not. I don't think he knows. He's going to have to instill in himself more drive and decisiveness and get over his long-time reluctance to taking instructions. While the knockout punch may not have looked devastating, when applied by a fighter as powerful as Foreman, it certainly was legitimate. How it affects Moorer remains to be seen. It all depends on his mind."

–Jack Fiske, columnist for THE RING, and the dean of boxing writers

LENNOX LEWIS
London, England

FACT BOX
Record: 25-1 (21)
Age: 29
Last Date Champ: September 24, 1994
Height: 6'5"
Weight: 235
Manager: Frank Maloney
Trainer: To Be Announced
Promoter: Main Events, Panix Promotions

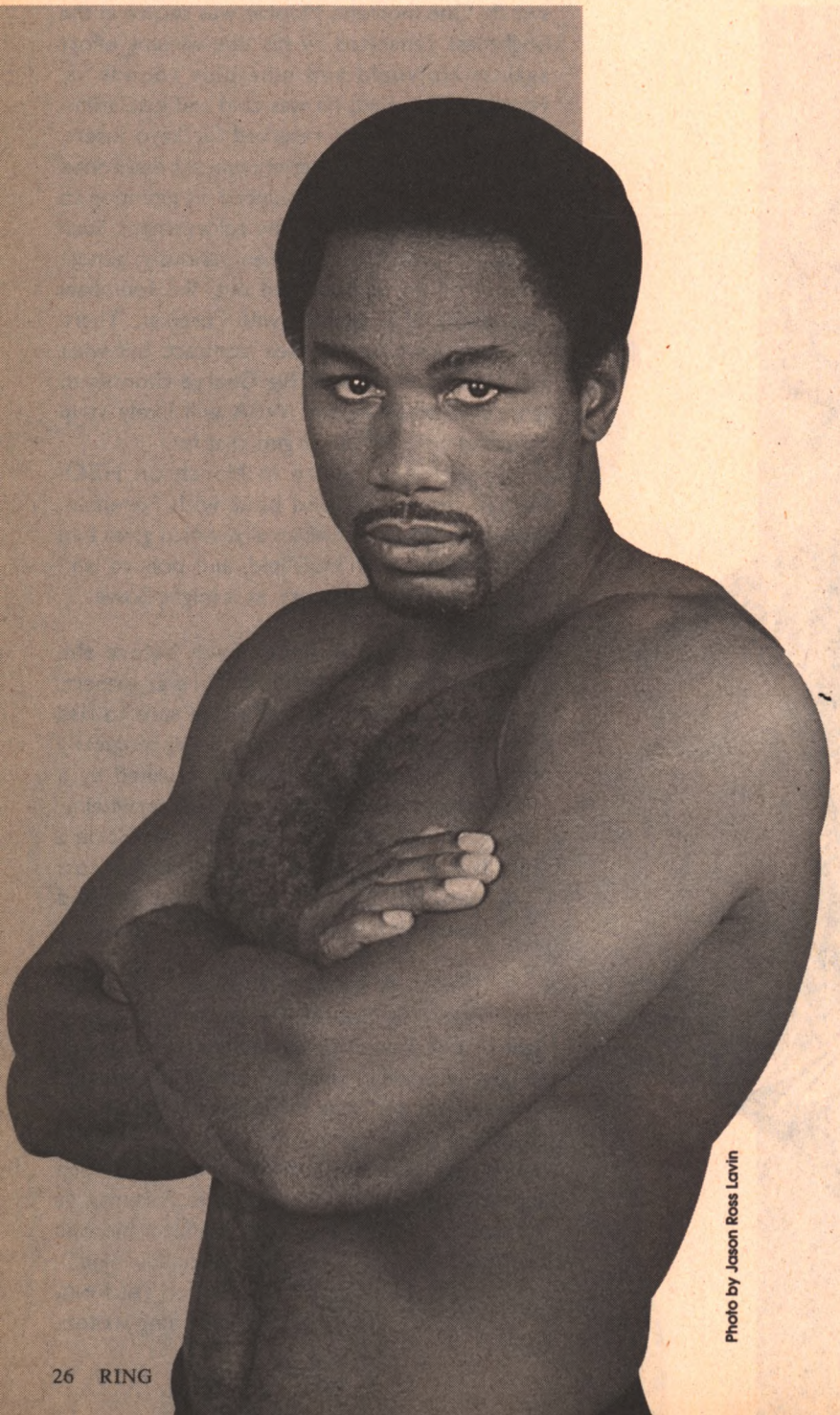


Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Status: Much as was the case with Moorer, everything good about Lewis was seemingly obliterated by one punch. The British-Canadian-Jamaican heavyweight's quickie kayo loss to McCall will be difficult to overcome. Lewis has again changed trainers, and with his chin, balance, and defense now suspect, there's plenty to address in the gym.

On the positive side, the WBC has decided to be kind; Lewis will be given the opportunity, perhaps as soon as March, to fight a title eliminator against Lionel Butler. That's the good news. Now for the bad: Butler hits even harder than McCall, and even if Lewis survives that showdown, promoter Don King isn't likely to give him a shot at McCall. At least not as long as Lewis is promoted by Main Events.

Whether the opponent is Butler or a glorified trialhorse, look for Lewis to return in March, most likely on an HBO-televised card also featuring Moorer.

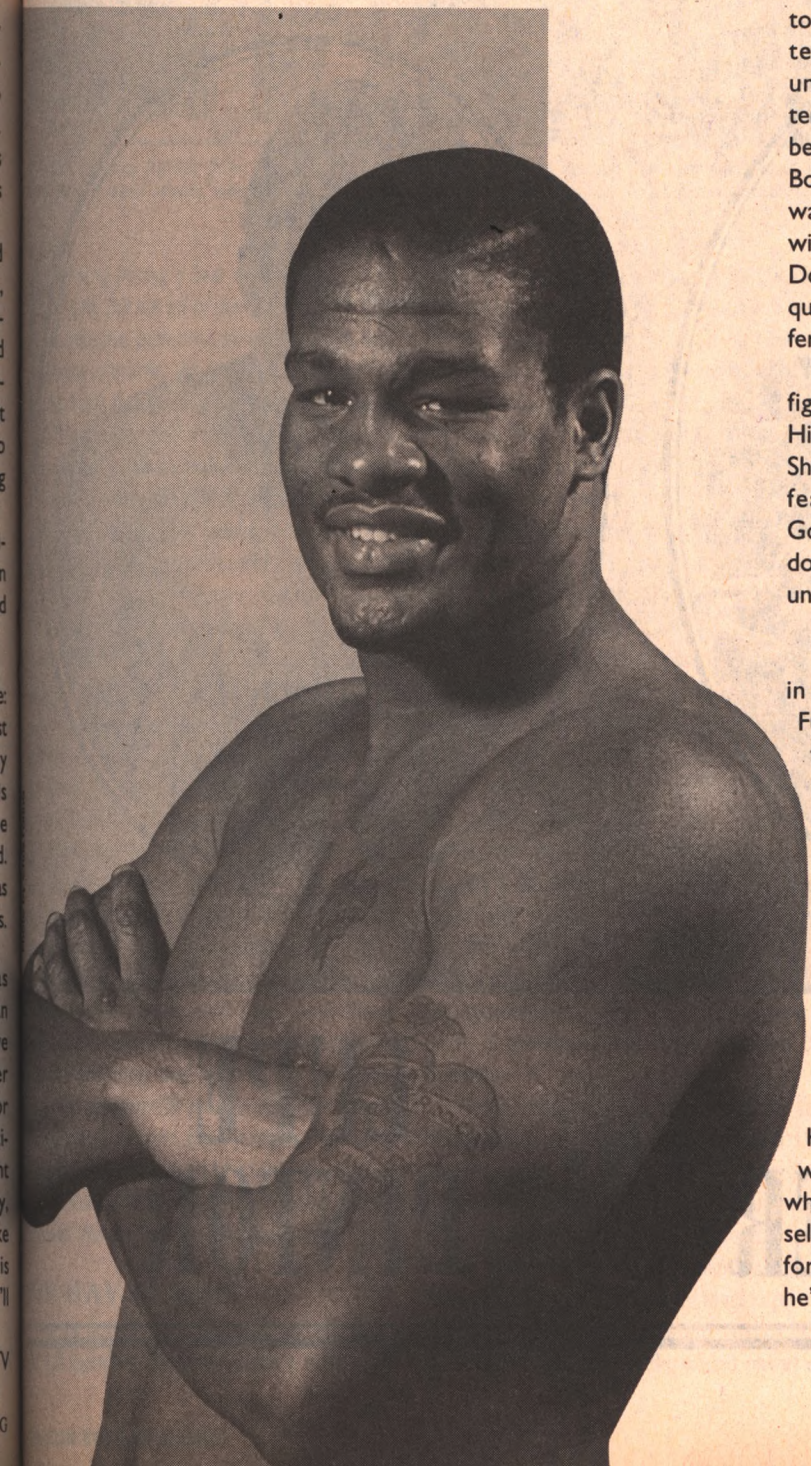
Key To The Future: It's all in the attitude. If Lewis has already dismissed the disaster against McCall as an aberration, history will probably repeat itself. But if he chooses to analyze his weaknesses and focus on improving himself, he has the physical assets to effectively rebound. After all, even while he was champion, Lewis was viewed as nothing more than a work in progress.

From A Neutral Corner: "Lewis has tremendous physical equipment, but even as an amateur, his toughness and commitment have been questioned. The worst thing that ever happened to him was his knockout of Razor Ruddock. He started to believe he was invincible, and any chance to make a commitment went out the window. Given boxing history, people don't come back from knockouts like his loss to McCall. That, combined with his lack of mental toughness, probably means he'll never be an outstanding heavyweight."

–Alex Wallau, boxing analyst for ABC-TV

RIDDICK BOWE

Fort Washington, Maryland



FACT BOX
Record: 35-1 (29) 1 no-contest
Age: 27
Last Date Champ: November 6, 1993
Height: 6'5"
Weight: 242
Manager: Rock Newman
Trainer: Eddie Futch
Promoter: Spencer Promotions

Status: Since losing the WBA and IBF titles to Holyfield, "Big Daddy" has fought a no-contest with Buster Mathis Jr. and scored an unspectacular points win over top-10 contender Larry Donald. Both fights turned out to be public relations nightmares. Against Mathis, Bowe landed a right hand while his opponent was down; he somehow managed to escape without a disqualification loss. And before the Donald fight, he smacked his opponent with a quite real left-right combination at a press conference.

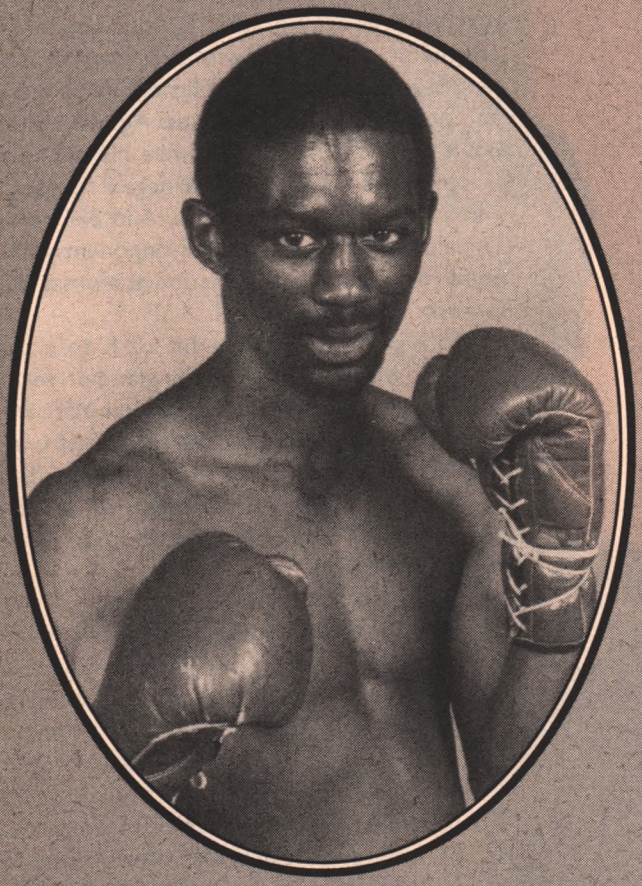
With politics blocking his path to a title fight, Bowe will challenge England's Herbie Hide for the spurious WBO belt on March 11. Should he win, he'll likely defend against undefeated Cuban powerpuncher Jorge Luis Gonzalez. A legitimate title fight, or a showdown with Lewis, Holyfield, or Moorer, seems unlikely in '95.

Key To The Future: Has all that money in the bank affected Bowe's desire? Trainer Futch has twice threatened to split, citing his fighter's lack of dedication. The former champion was in reasonable shape against Donald, but still offered a lukewarm performance. At his best, there's probably not a big man Bowe can't beat. Remember, for all the criticism he's absorbed, he's a heavyweight who has lost only once, and that was by debatable decision.

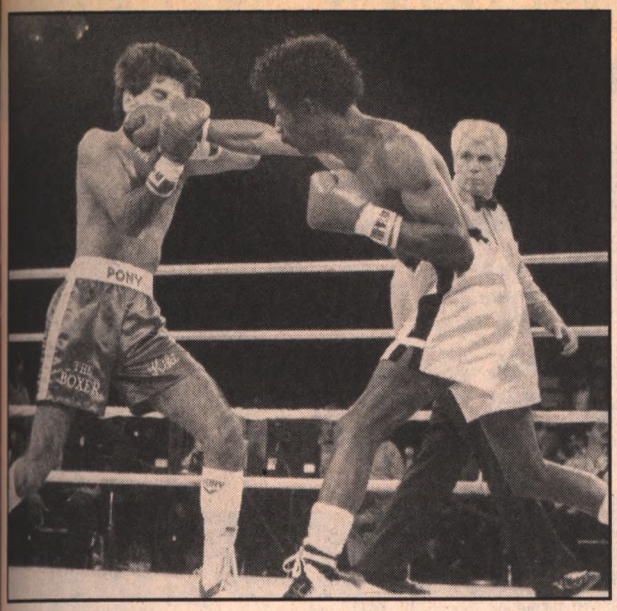
From A Neutral Corner: "From an athletic standpoint, Bowe is more in control of his own destiny than anyone else. He's the biggest and strongest of the heavyweights and has the most tools. At this point, what he needs is tunnel-vision to dedicate himself to running the table and returning to the form of the first fight with Holyfield. I think he's the best out there."

–Dave Bontempo, boxing analyst for ESPN ■

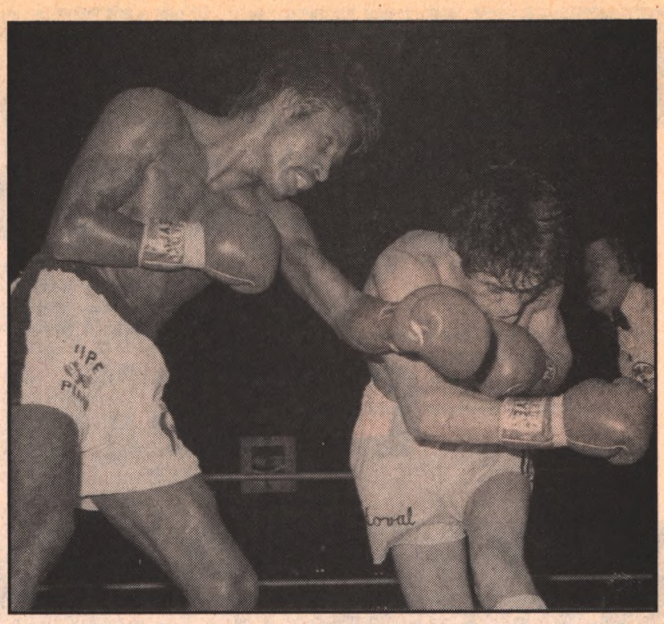
WHAT IF...



JEFF CHANDLER vs. LUPE PINTOR



Chandler, a lanky fighter from Philadelphia, lands his long right against Oscar "The Boxer" Muniz, whom he stopped in seven rounds in 1983.



Pintor's left hand was too powerful for speedy Superfly Sandoval, who lasted 12 rounds in 1980. Pintor defended the WBC bantam title eight times.

Most of boxing's best matchups are realized. But not all of them. For a variety of reasons, including timing, injuries, and promotional concerns, the fights we most want to see—the fights that could change history—sometimes fail to materialize. When that happens, we're left with our imaginations, which makes for never-ending conjecture and delightful debate.

With the help of Jim Trunzo, boxing's foremost computer programmer, and TKO Professional Boxing, by Lance Haffner Games, THE RING *has once again decided to play matchmaker. (In 1991, Trunzo helped us with "*THE RING *All-Time Computer Tournament.")*

The computer program runs in compiled BASIC and consists of several thousand lines of code. More than two-dozen routines and sub-routines cross-check such factors as ring position, the fighters' physical condition, accumulated damage, status of cuts, and special strategy, if any, that is used. In addition, almost 100 variables are constantly monitored during a given fight.

We've presented Trunzo with a handful of dream matchups, fights that could have taken place but never did. His program considers more than 100 variables, and he runs the matchups through his computer 20 times each. What if Jack Dempsey had fought Harry Wills? What if Roberto Duran had fought Alexis Arguello? What if Rocky Marciano had fought Floyd Patterson? Here are some of the answers.

THE WAY IT WAS

For the last 40 years, the bantamweight division and legendary Mexican fighters have been virtually synonymous. From the early-'50s, when Raton Macias claimed a portion of the 118-pound crown, to the early-'90s, when Jibaro Perez was arguably the best bantie in the world, Mexicans have dominated the division. Names like Ruben Olivares, Rodolfo Martinez, and "The Z Boys," Carlos Zarate and Alfonso Zamora, stand out among the best fighters of their eras.

Another Mexican who wore the bantamweight crown and should, in hindsight, also wear the mantle of greatness, was Lupe Pintor. The barrel-chested Mexican was given the WBC title by virtue of one of the worst decisions in the annals of boxing, defeating legendary stablemate Zarate over 15 rounds. In spite of the circumstances surrounding his coronation, Pintor went on to prove his worth as a fighter and champion, successfully defending the title eight times against such worthy challengers as Albert Sandoval, Albert Davila, and Eijiro Murata. Pintor also bested tough Jose Soto and former champion Jorge Lujan in non-title bouts. However, the one fighter he failed to face, and the opponent who would have cemented his claim to greatness, was WBA champion Jeff Chandler.

"Joltin' Jeff," a long and lanky fighter from Philadelphia, won the title by scoring a 14th-round stoppage of Puerto Rico's Julian Solis. Almost before the belt was strapped around his waist, Chandler demanded a unification with Pintor. It was the undefeated Chandler, and not Pintor, who was recognized by most experts as the best 118-pounder in the world. A slick boxer early in his career, Chandler added power and became a complete fighter. But, like Pintor, he was denied a certain level of greatness because he never attempted to unify the title.

Throughout 1980 and '81, Russell Peltz, Chandler's promoter, desperately tried to make the bout. Pintor's camp first cited money as a stumbling block, then injuries (a motorcycle accident sidelined the Mexican for six months). By the time Pintor was ready to fight in early-'82, he could no longer make the division limit. In fact, Pintor had long struggled to reduce to 118 pounds. Conversely, the 5'7" Chandler, a metabolic freak, enjoyed the luxury of snacking en route to his weigh-ins. When Pintor announced he would vacate the WBC title in order to challenge Wilfredo Gomez for the organization's super bantamweight crown, any hopes of a unification bout were crushed. And when Chandler lost the WBA title to Richard Sandoval in '84, and then retired following cataract surgery, Chandler-Pintor at *any* weight was reduced to dream-fight status.

THE WAY IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN

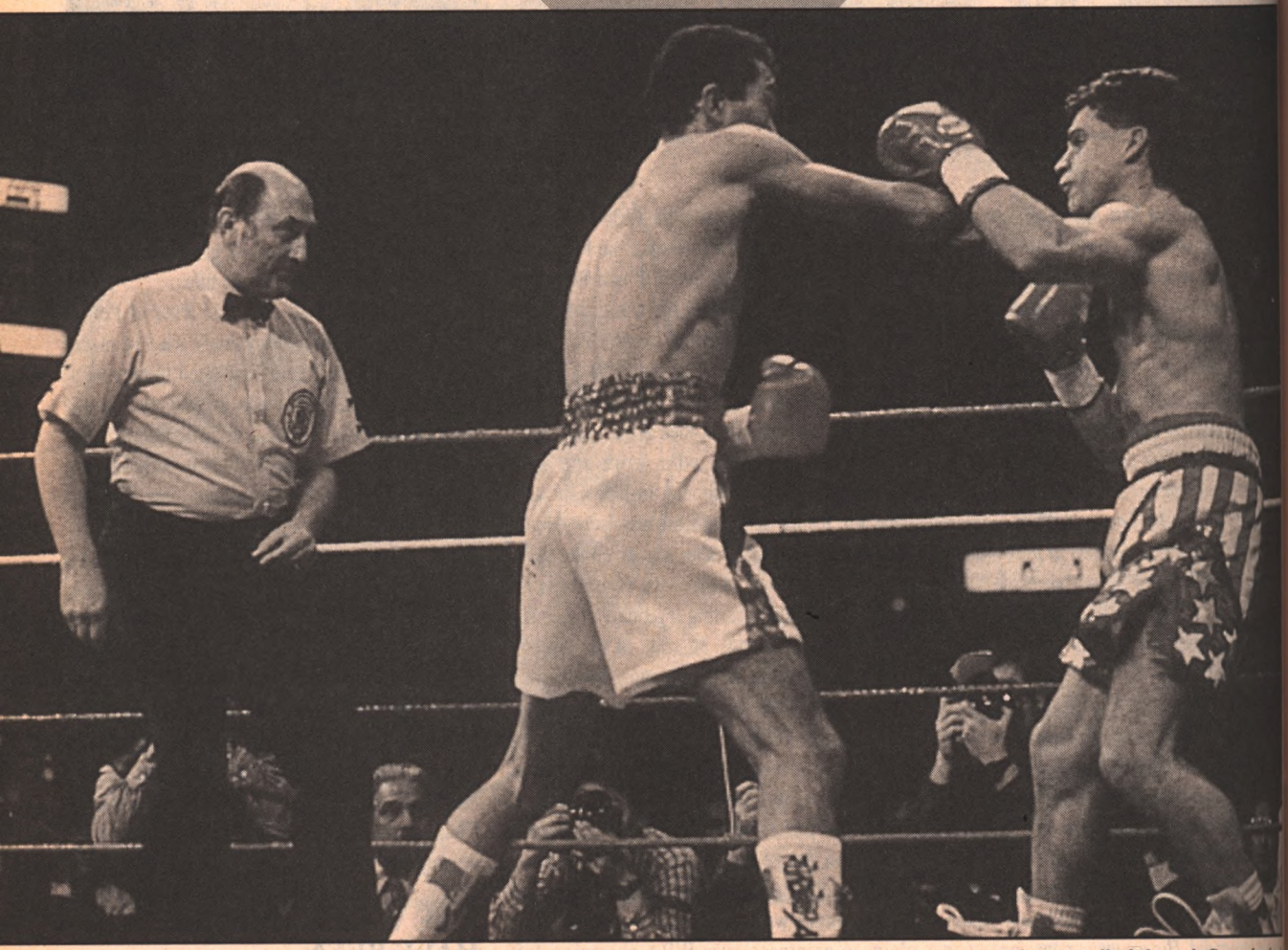
Maybe it is Chandler's lackluster April 1981 defense against the aforementioned Murata that convinces Pintor to finally sign for a unification bout.

"It hasn't been a goal, it's been an obsession," says a relieved Chandler. "I've wanted this guy even before I became champion. It's not that I don't think he's a tough fighter or a good champion. He's the best—well, the *second*-best ban-

(Continued on page 58)

HOMETOWN HORROR:

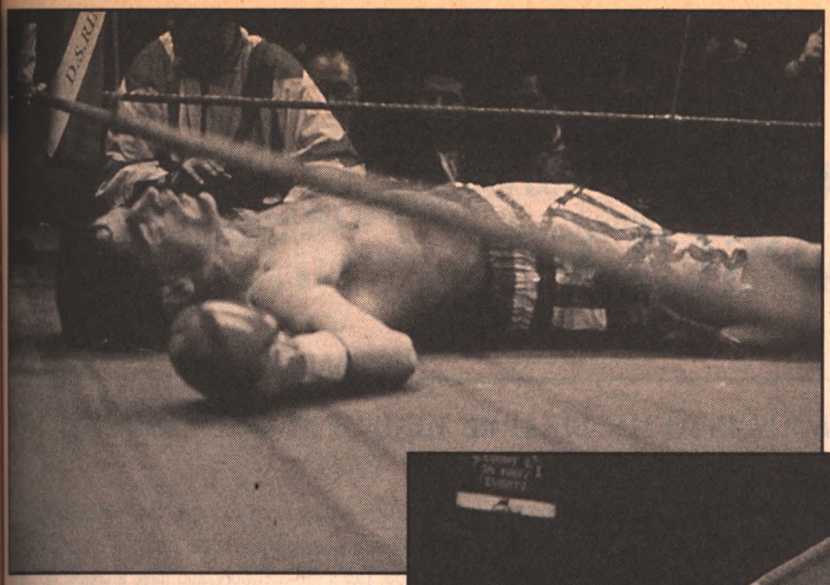
GAMACHE GETS GONGED



Olzubek, a southpaw, walked through Gamache, landing powerpunches almost at will. Did local favorite Gamache underestimate the visiting champion?

"People In Maine Thought Joey Was Superman"

Photos by Ray Bailey



Left: When Gamache crashed, he looked every bit a beaten fighter. Below: WBC flyweight champion and stablemate Yuri Arbachakov (second from right) helped Olzubek celebrate his victory.

By Jay N. Miller

Barely four minutes into his try at the WBA lightweight title, Joey Gamache, former two-division world champion and undoubtedly the greatest fighter in the history of the Pine Tree State, had been dropped onto the seat of his flashy red-white-and-blue trunks by a counterpunch so quick, many ringsiders missed it. The glazed look in Gamache's eyes suggested the bout wouldn't go much further. The fight was at the Cumberland County Civic Center in Portland, Maine, but the feeling was as if Michael Jordan had broken his leg driving to the basket in the seventh game of the NBA Finals at Chicago Stadium.

Even though his name is spelled differently every time you read it, Nazarov "Gussie" Olzubek, a 28-year-old southpaw from Russia, just might be the best lightweight in the world. That was certainly the consensus in Portland after Olzubek demolished Gamache, scoring 2½ knockdowns and a kayo at 2:50 of round two.

Olzubek, the son of a busdriver, hails from Kant, a town in the republic of Kirgiziya, near Russia's eastern border. The small farming community offered two sports, track and boxing, so by the age of 11 he was gloved up and ready to punch. His overall amateur record of 153-12 included three all-Soviet lightweight titles (in 1985, '87, and '88) and a European championship. Upon turning pro, he emigrated to Japan and signed with Tokyo's Kyoei Boxing. His facial features are such that he blends in with his Japanese handlers. Physically, he's anything but imposing, with long arms and legs and a leanness more suited to a marathoner. But in winning the title on the road from Dingaan Thobela in October 1993, and then successfully defending it against the South African, he proved to be quite formidable.

Understandably reluctant to travel to Japan, mandatory challenger Gamache and his handlers paid the champion handsomely to risk the title in Maine. Olzubek secured a sizable guarantee while Gamache took only a percentage of the net gate. The bout was originally slated for an afternoon CBS show, but an Olzubek wrist injury eliminated that possibility. As the fight approached, the possibility that Gamache would fight virtually for free became very real. As it turned out, 6,127 fans showed up (5,546 paid), or about a thousand short of capacity. Gamache ended up pocketing a modest payday.

There was a controversy even before the fight began: The title bout was scheduled for 4 p.m., and Dutch middleweight Raymond Joval stopped Hartford's Greg Cadiz in the third round of their scheduled six at 3:45. Anticipating a 15-minute intermission, many fans and reporters headed for the concession stands or restrooms. But as soon as Joval left the ring, blaring theme music signaled the arrival of Gamache, with Olzubek not far behind. It was suggested the challenger's camp was upset with the quick start, but a week after the bout, Joey Gamache Sr., the fighter's father and chief handler, dismissed the idea. "That early start happened to the Russian, too," he said. "We can't use that as an excuse."

At the sound of the opening bell, the most obvious factor was Olzubek's pronounced reach advantage; Gamache was forced to try to dart inside, land quickly, then step away before his foe could counter. The 28-year-old Gamache also didn't seem to have a clue as to how to negotiate Olzubek's southpaw stance. The first-round exchanges weren't memorable, and with both fighters very cautious, ringside scoring was split.

(Continued on page 61)

By Stanley Weston
Publisher, THE RING Magazine

TIME CAPSULES

NEW LOOK INTO THE BIZARRE MIND OF STANLEY KETCHEL

(Circa 1950)

The fights were over and TV commentator Jimmy Powers was getting ready to leave New York City's historic St. Nicholas Arena when his longtime pal, automobile dealer Don Allen, grabbed his arm. "Jimmy, I've got something here that I think will interest you. Let's go next door and have a couple of drinks."

Ketchel in 1909, age 23, a year before his murder.

Seated at a table in the rear of the saloon, Allen carefully took an envelope from his inside pocket and gently nursed out a single sheet of frayed paper that once must have been white. He placed the sheet face down atop the envelope. "Before I let you see this, I want to fill you in on what it's about," the auto dealer told Powers, who also happened to be the sports editor of America's largest-circulation newspaper, the New York *Daily News*.

"This is a letter written by Stanley Ketchel to a guy named Fred Muller," Allen began. "Muller owned the Woodlawn Inn, up in the Bronx, where Ketchel trained for most of his fights here in the East. Steve [as the fighter's friends called him] took a liking to Woodlawn because the woods and big trees made him feel like he was home in Michigan." Allen said he was certain this was the last letter the legendary champion had written because it was dated Wednesday, October 12, 1910, and Ketchel was shot to death three days later, on October 15.

Even though Allen refused to reveal how the precious document came into his hands, Powers was so impressed with the discovery that two days later he devoted his entire column to the story. The real importance of the Ketchel letter, besides its worth as a memorabilia treasure, is that it's the only hint of the way Ketchel's mind really worked. Moreover, it reveals his meager level of education. The countless words of fiction written about this ring wonder since his tragic demise at the tender age of 24, and the equally countless quotes attributed to him that make him sound like anything from a college professor to a serial killer, have as much basis in truth as the ancient spoof about George Washington chopping down that damned cherry tree.

Published now, for the first time, is the last letter of Stanley Ketchel, exactly as he wrote it, with his own spelling and punctuation intact.

The Woodlawn Inn, Bronx, New York, where, for a nickel, one could watch the middleweight champion in training.

MISSOURI LAND and LUMBER COMPANY

Capital $100,000 *Stanley Ketchel, President*

General Offices

313 College Street *Springfield, Missouri*

Wednesday Oct. 12, 1910

Dear Friend Fred: your welcom letter I recived and was glad to hear from you and peat the goat. Its makes one feel good to hear from A good place like woodlon inn. and at times I feel that I must get back and see you all. I have quit the Fiting game and I am gowing into the farming business. I have baught 32,000 ackers of timber land and 800 ackers of the best farming land in the world.

I will Incorprait it for about 300,000 dollars and put in a saw mill and lumber it off and when I get the big place cleared off I will have the bigest farm in the World. SpringField, Mo. is my place now. It is the best country in the world I have tryed them all and I know. The only place I have ever gotten a fair deal in ennie thing. If I ever go into the fiting game again It will be for fun and charity. It seems queer to quit the gang and good times but its a losing game ennie way a fellow plays it. And what I am dowing now is sure.

Well old pal I left some tools and tires in your place and a trunk. Can you send them down to the bartholda hotel and put my name on them and they will take care of them till I come back. and if I come back which is sure my first stop will be at Woodlon inn and we will drink to the good night we all had when I beat Willie Lewis the best little fellow in the world. Well I must clos and say good by to all until I see you or hear from you. Good luck to all have peat the goat take care of the stuff. Write and tell me all the news your pal and ruff house frend ... By ... Stanley Ketchel

Editor's note: The person Ketchel refers to as "peat the goat" was a mentally retarded man (Pete the Goat) who hung around the Woodlawn Inn, doing anything he was told to do. Pete worshipped Ketchel, but often bore the brunt of the dangerous pranks triggered by the champion's warped sense of humor. ■

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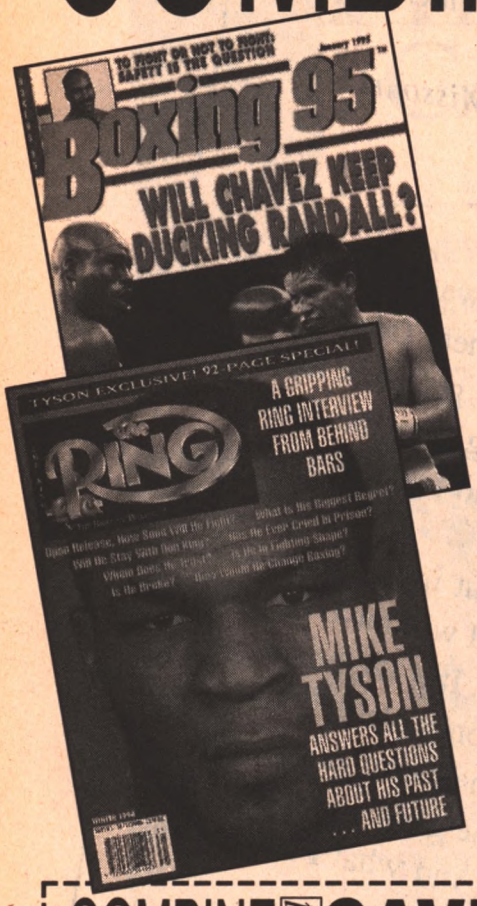

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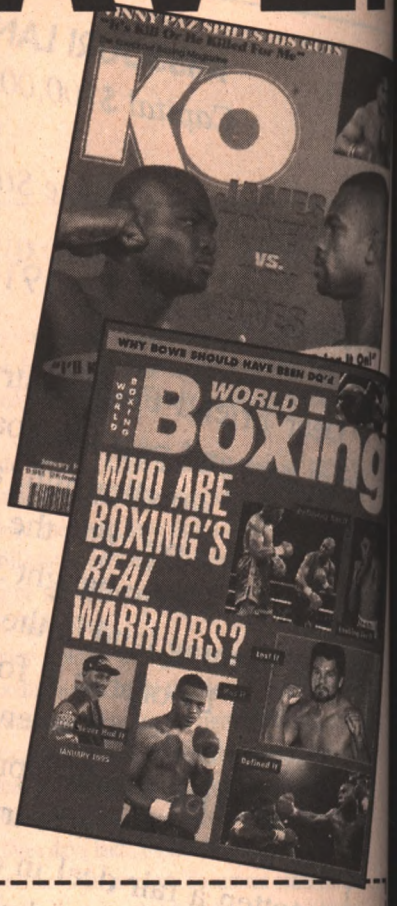

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FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

ROY JONES

"I Was Gonna Make It One Way Or Another"

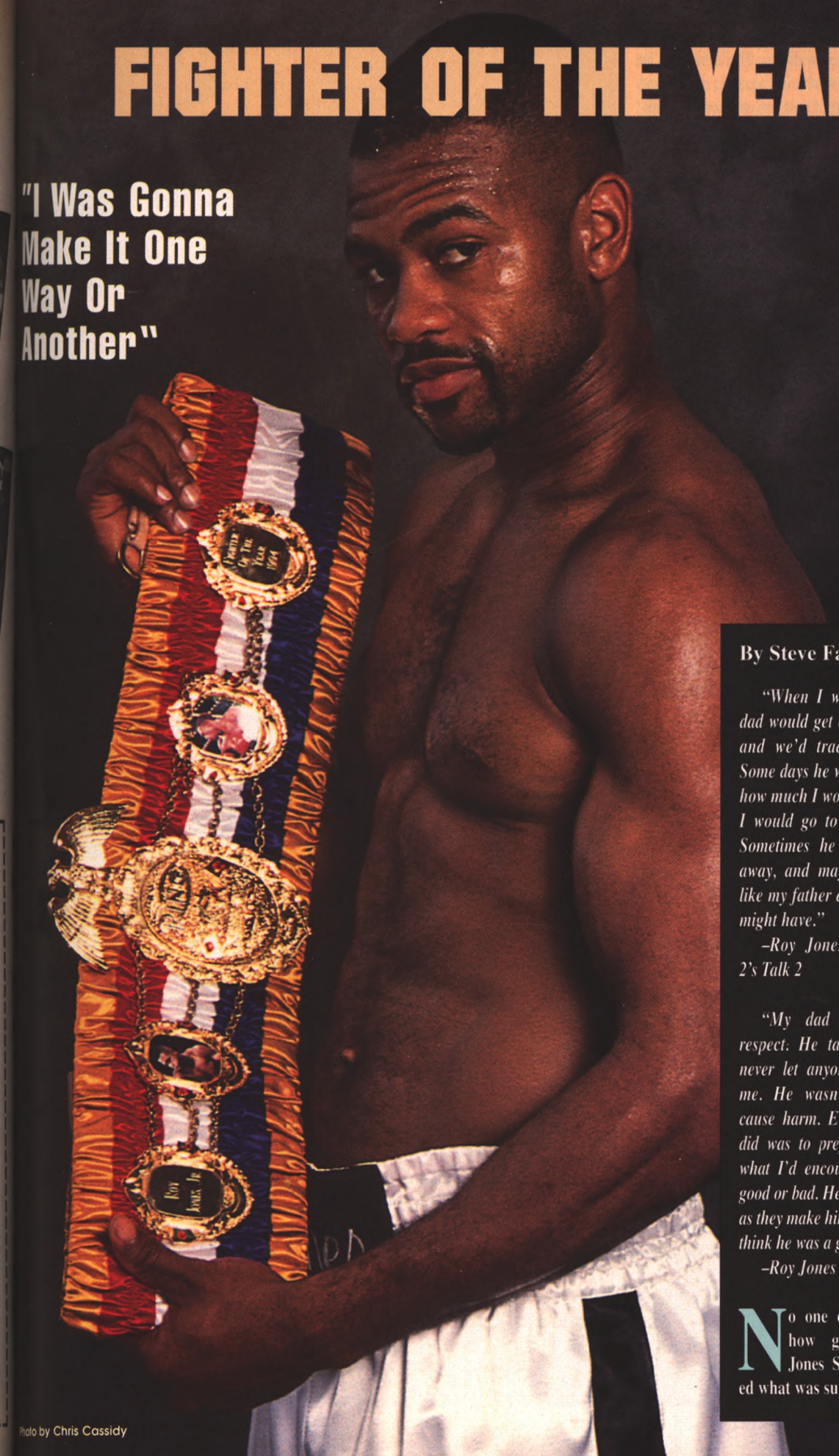


Photo by Chris Cassidy

By Steve Farhood

"When I was four, my dad would get on his knees and we'd trade punches. Some days he wanted to see how much I would take and I would go to bed crying. Sometimes he got carried away, and maybe I didn't like my father as much as I might have."

–Roy Jones on ESPN 2's Talk 2

"My dad taught me respect. He taught me to never let anyone run over me. He wasn't trying to cause harm. Everything he did was to prepare me for what I'd encounter in life, good or bad. He's not as bad as they make him out to be. I think he was a good father."

–Roy Jones to THE RING

No one can be sure how greatly Roy Jones Sr. anticipated what was supposed to be

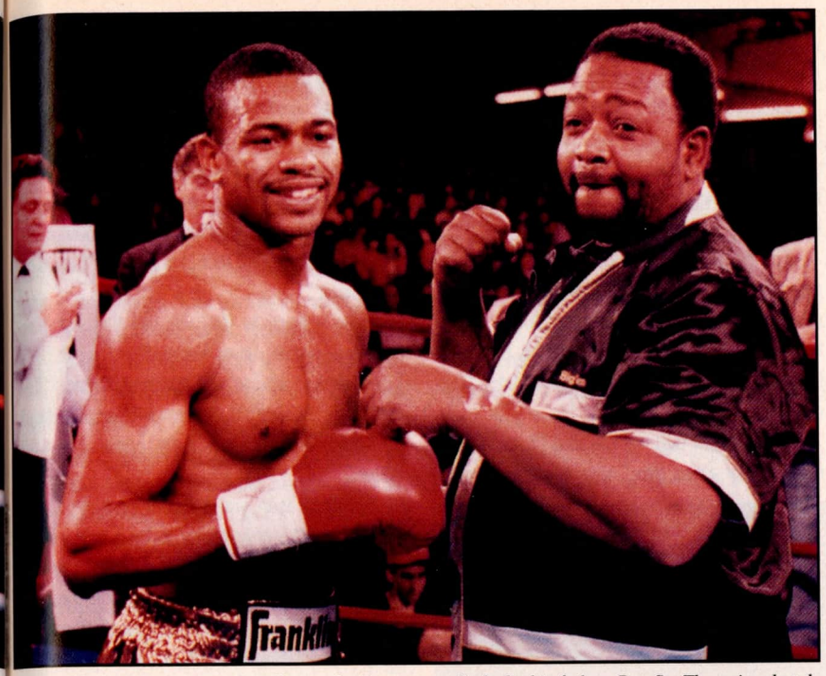
the night of his life, a moment of which most parents don't dare even dream. That's because he spent Friday, November 18, a couple of thousand miles from his son. Can't you envision Dad smiling wide, *glowing*, as his boy, a portrait in self-confidence, slowly gyrates his hips upon entering the ring? Or Father nodding knowingly as Jones reduces a feared and unbeaten world champion to a lunging, stumbling fool? Or Senior recalling boxing lessons long ago taught and mastered as the announcers label Junior the best fighter in the world?

Most of what we know about the father is what we've heard from the son: that discipline came in the form of a plastic pipe across Jones' thighs; that in his early teen years, his heart would threaten to pound through his chest upon his father's arrival home from work; that he thought about running away, about killing his father, about killing himself.

At one point, Roy Jones Jr. even thought about quitting boxing.

But we don't need any one-on-ones with

Jones scored a third-round knockdown en route to convincingly outpointing the previously unbeaten James Toney in November. The Fighter of the Year awaits further challenges.



Until 1992, Jones was heavily influenced—if not controlled—by his father, Roy Sr. The uniquely talented champion failed to establish momentum until they parted company.

Jones to understand how his father has affected his pro career. After a mind-boggling decision cost Jones a gold medal at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, he was a *cause celebre*, much like Evander Holyfield four years before. But Pops carefully and meticulously destroyed whatever momentum and marketability Jones had established. NBC wanted to televise Jones' fights; the cameras loved him. But after his father vetoed opponent after opponent, the network began to court other fighters. Jones' talent belied his lack of professional experience. Who needed the mismatches?

"My fourth, fifth fight, I could've beaten the reigning world champions," Jones says matter of factly.

It got downright ridiculous in 1991, when Jones' talents were cheapened by matchups against the likes of Ed Evans, who was 0-4 in '91, and Lester Yarbrough, a loser in seven of his previous 10 bouts. In '92, trainer and fighter split up—and father and son felt the effects.

"I couldn't see where my father was head-

Photo by Will Hart/HBO

ROY JONES: THE YEAR THAT WAS

If you believe in progression, Roy Jones will lose three times in 1995. That's because Riddick Bowe, THE RING's Fighter of the Year in 1992, lost once in 1993, and Michael Carbajal, the 1993 Fighter of the Year, lost twice in 1994. When it comes to Jones, we most assuredly don't believe in progression. In fact, given Jones' performance against James Toney, it's difficult to envision the IBF super middleweight champion losing to *anyone* in *any* year.

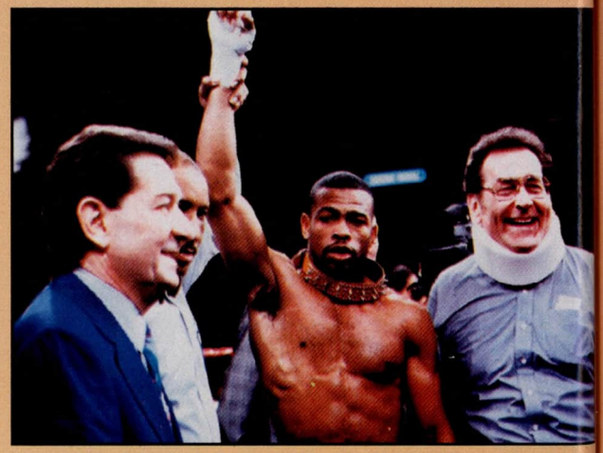
His year in review:

KO 6 Danny Garcia, Pensacola, Florida, March 22, 1994: Whatever momentum Jones creates by winning the vacant IBF middleweight title is long gone by the time he faces Puerto Rico's Garcia in an over-the-weight match on the campus of the University of West Florida. Jones, who is crowned after outpointing Bernard Hopkins in May 1993, finishes the year with so-what non-title fight victories over Sugar Boy Malinga and Fermin Chirino. The Garcia fight seems more of the same.

Garcia, 25-12 (19), climbs through the ropes having lost four straight, including a July 1993 kayo loss to James Toney. A somewhat dangerous puncher, he offers little against Jones, 25-0 (22), as if fearful of being countered. Jones, 166, chooses not to force the action until the end of round six, when he pins Garcia, 164¼, to the ropes and explodes with a flurry. Most of his punches miss, but a left hook connects, and Garcia slumps to the canvas. He rises a half-second after referee Frank Santore tolls 10 at the 2:59 mark.

"I never got caught with a flush shot, which is always my objective," says the winner.

KO 2 Thomas Tate, Las Vegas, Nevada, May 27, 1994: Mandatory



Jones rejected Tate's challenge doggie style, blowing him away in the second round. Adviser Stan Levin opted for a more conventional collar.

challenger Tate calls Jones a dog, among other things, and scores big during the prefight hype. Figuratively rolling with the punches, the champion enters the ring at the MGM Grand Garden wearing a dog collar, then proves his bite is far more dangerous than his bark.

Perhaps Tate, 159½, thinks he possesses a psychological edge when during referee Richard Steele's final instructions, Jones, 159, shifts his eyes away from the challenger. As soon as the bell rings, however, Jones, 26-0 (23), is perfectly focused. He opens with a rush, stunning Tate, 29-3 (21), with a pair of counter rights and a right uppercut. Later in the round, he adds a crunching hook to the body and a straight right that staggers Tate.

Even Jones' opening-round blitz can't possibly prepare Tate for what happens early in the second. A lead hook finds the point of Tate's chin, and the Texan crashes hard. He rises at Steele's count of eight, but when he stumbles backward, the referee and Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, Tate's trainer, call a mercy halt. The time of the stoppage is the 30-second mark.

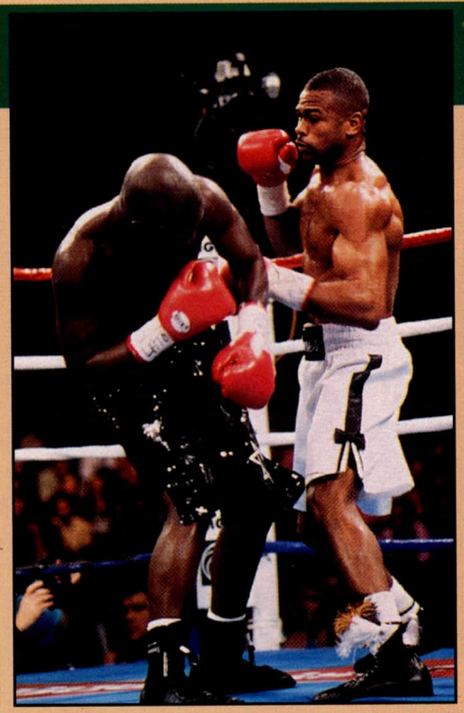
It is unquestionably the most aggressive, if not impressive, performance of Jones' six-year career. "Sometimes *I* don't understand how I do it," says the top dog.

Bow-wow? Just wow will do.

W 12 James Toney, Las Vegas, Nevada, November 18, 1994: It can be argued that no matter the outcome of the most anticipated fight of 1994, the story of the year will be George Foreman. Only 13 days before Jones-Toney, Big George manages the miracle of the century. His unlikely knockout of Michael Moorer costs Jones and Toney prefight publicity, and probably a few thousand pay-per-view buys, too. What's an unbeaten super middleweight to do?

What Jones does is fight in a visceral manner Big George wouldn't even dare fantasize about. He is so creative, so fast and quick, that a pick-'em fight is reduced to a virtuoso performance and a one-man show.

Beforehand, the focus is on Toney, who reduces from 210 pounds to 167, then adds 15 pounds between the weigh-in and the opening bell. "He



Featuring an unpredictable attack, Jones kept defending champion Toney on the defensive for all 12 rounds.

knows it's hard to come down," Alton Merkerson, Jones' trainer, says of Toney as the defending champion steps from the scale. "It doesn't impress me that he had no problem making 168."

How significant Toney's struggle to make weight turns out to be will be debated for years. However, Jones, 168, is just right. He moves beautifully, inviting Toney forward, then making sure to punch first. Jones, 27-0 (23), whiffs often, and a good portion of his lead hooks are blocked, but he still does almost all of the scoring. Toney, 44-1-2 (29), misses amateurishly with his right and doesn't even try to hook. And when inside, he offers a minimal body attack, largely because Jones ties him up or slides away.

Jones scores a flash knockdown in the third, wins all of the middle rounds, and cruises down the stretch to win as he pleases. "Toney was being played with like a toy," he tells THE RING. The decision is unanimous and totally void of controversy (scores of 119-108, 118-109, and 117-110).

Maybe Jones isn't the story of the year. But all a super middleweight can do is fight to the very best of his ability, and for that, Jones is the Fighter of the Year. In '94, he did more. We can't wait for the encore.

–SF

ed," says Jones. "Maybe he had a plan I couldn't see."

***

The man wielding the pipe wasn't so bad after all. So says Roy Jones Jr., who sees perfectly clearly. On the day he returned home from Las Vegas, where he won the IBF super middleweight title—and THE RING's Fighter of the Year award—by scoring a one-sided 12-round decision over James Toney, Jones got together with his father. Reports Jones, "He said, 'Job well done.'"

Assuming the end justifies the means, Roy Jones Sr. might have been referring to himself. While his parenting methods were harsh by anyone's standards, his son, one of five children, turned out very much as he had hoped. When asked how he was able to react so coolly to the considerable pressures of the Toney fight, Jones answers unhesitatingly: "Because [my father] taught me how to react to pressure. Because he kept pressure on me *all the time*."

The boxing world stops when there's a big pay-per-view fight, and in that sense, everyone now knows what kind of fighter Jones is. But he's been somewhat guarded with his personality, which, given his upbringing, is understandable.

"I know his father well, and [Roy Sr.] did make a very strong man," says Alton Merkerson, Jones' trainer since mid-'92. "I was in Seoul in '88. Roy was the youngest guy on the team, and people still went to him for decisions. But what was most impressive was how he handled it after being denied the gold medal. The average person, 99.9 percent of people, would've gone off the deep end and cried. Roy handled it without dropping a tear. I realized then that he wasn't an average person."

"The softness to Roy, the part that's person-oriented, comes from his mother," says Stan Levin, Jones' adviser and longtime friend. "The dogged determination, the unwillingness to back off when he thinks he's right, comes from his father."

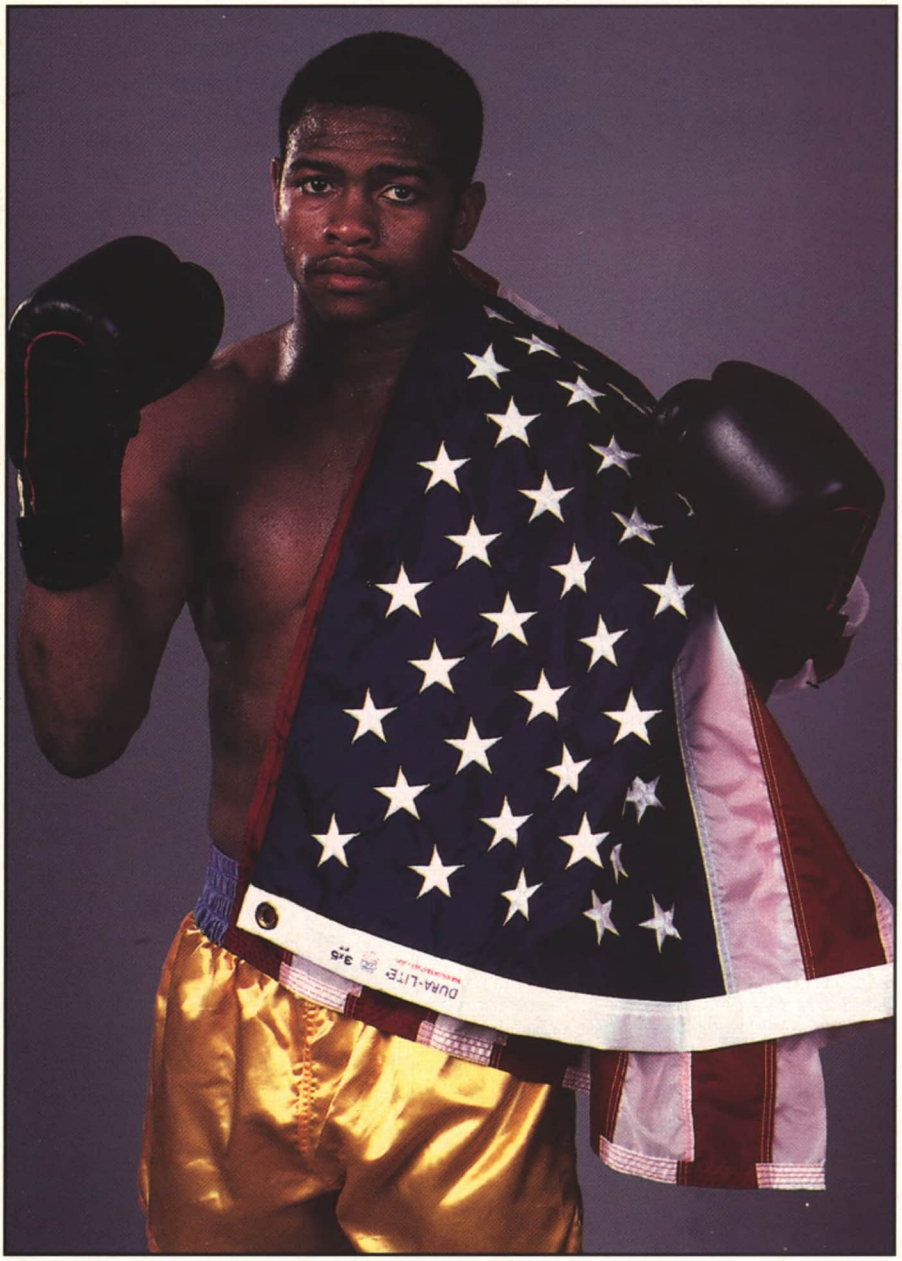
The heck with you, Charles Barkley; Jones, 26, relishes the opportunity to be a role model. He doesn't smoke, drink, or dabble in drugs. Never has. That's because he's sure no one can stop him but himself. His father taught him that. Instead of hurting himself or limiting himself, Jones likes to test himself and push himself. That's why he sought a fight with Toney, then rejected a guarantee for a percentage of the pay-per-view sales. That's why he's open to a fight with 250-pound heavyweight champion George Foreman. (Promoter Bob Arum refuses to make the match; it's not clear whom he's protecting.) And that's why, shortly after defeating Toney, he returned to Las Vegas to try his hand at acting.

Jones plays light heavyweight contender Sonny Williams in a movie titled *The Watcher*. He has a dozen lines or so, with his Brando moment coming when he says, "Yo, hey, boy, ain't gonna be a rematch, gonna be a *grudge* match." He practiced and practiced, just as he spars and spars, and when the time finally came, he said, "Yo, hey, boy ... forget it." The crew cracked up, and so did Jones. At least he doesn't take himself too seriously. Must've gotten that from his mother.

***

It took far too long for Jones to emerge as a Fighter of the Year, and when his time finally came, he was eclipsed by George Foreman. It didn't matter that Big George's year consisted of one punch and 19 pitches for mufflers, while Jones boxed 20 near-perfect rounds. If timing is everything, Jones might as well have done nothing. He topped Toney 13 days after Foreman had erased 20 years. Even the hard-core fans who have always recognized Jones' unique skills had to acknowledge Foreman's miracle. And the writers who previewed Jones-Toney as the Leonard-Hearns of the '90s—of which there weren't enough—were guilty of wishful thinking.

However slowly, Jones had built a launching



In 1988, Jones, 19, wore the red-white-and-blue at the Olympic Games in Seoul. His points loss in the 156-pound gold medal match was arguably the worst decision in big-time amateur boxing history.

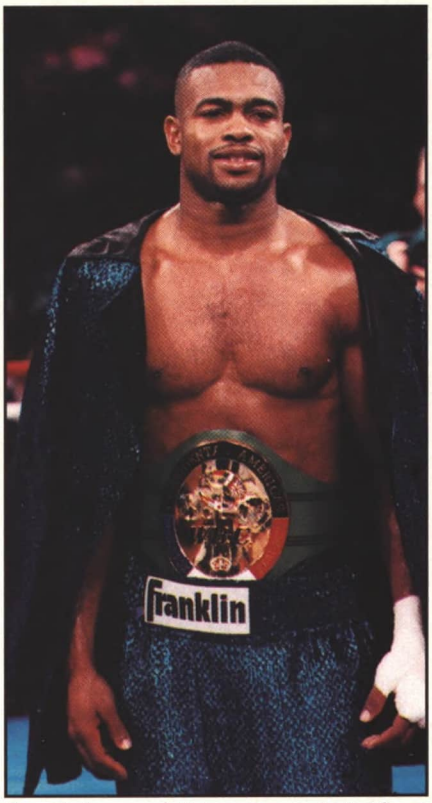
pad from which he skyrocketed to stardom. In 1992, he scored five solid wins, whipping former world champion Jorge Vaca (KO 1), future titlist Jorge Castro (W 10), and fringe contenders Art Serwano (KO 1), Glenn Thomas (KO 8), and Percy Harris (KO 4). It was the Harris fight, contested for one of those utterly meaningless Continental-Americas titles, that reestablished Jones' confidence. With his advancement having been retarded by his father, he wanted a championship belt. *Any* belt. For all he cared, his clash with Harris could have been a Continental Airlines title fight.

Jones began '93 by halting Glenn Wolfe (KO 1). Then he outpointed the highly regarded Bernard Hopkins to win the IBF middleweight title that had been vacated by Toney. Limited by an injured right hand, Jones boxed carefully, frustrating Hopkins and boring everyone else. He followed with non-title wins over South African light heavyweight Sugarboy Malinga (KO 6) and faded trialhorse Fermin Chirino (W 10). When the nominations were made for Fighter of the Year, Jones was ignored.

Jones fought only three times in '94 *(see sidebar)*, but two of his performances were as extraordinary as the Hopkins fight had been mundane. First came yet another non-title fight, a sixth-round kayo of used-up Puerto Rican power-puncher Danny Garcia. Next up was a grudge match against mandatory contender Thomas Tate.

"Tate got a little personal, which didn't happen even before the Toney fight," recalls Merkerson. "Toney never said anything in Roy's presence, and what he did say we knew was just hype. But Tate was telling people Roy hadn't fought anybody, what he was gonna do to him, that *he* was the top dog. Roy didn't get verbal, but when I was training him, I saw his intensity. I saw it in his *jaw*."

Jones climbed through the ropes wearing a dog collar, then proceeded to treat Tate as if he were a bowl of Alpo. A second-round left hook, fired with a frightening combination of velocity and power, prompted the challenger's corner to surrender even before the mandatory eight-count was completed.



Though the accomplishment seems insignificant in retrospect, Jones, desperate for recognition, was overjoyed when he won a Continental-Americas title belt in December 1992.

THE RING'S FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Roy Jones is the 69th recipient of THE RING's Fighter of the Year award. A complete listing:

1928: Gene Tunney
1929: Tommy Loughran
1930: Max Schmeling
1931: Tommy Loughran
1932: Jack Sharkey
1933: No Award
1934: Tony Canzoneri/ Barney Ross
1935: Barney Ross
1936: Joe Louis
1937: Henry Armstrong
1938: Joe Louis
1939: Joe Louis
1940: Billy Conn
1941: Joe Louis
1942: Ray Robinson
1943: Fred Apostoli
1944: Beau Jack
1945: Willie Pep
1946: Tony Zale
1947: Gus Lesnevich
1948: Ike Williams
1949: Ezzard Charles
1950: Ezzard Charles
1951: Ray Robinson
1952: Rocky Marciano
1953: Bobo Olson
1954: Rocky Marciano
1955: Rocky Marciano
1956: Floyd Patterson
1957: Carmen Basilio
1958: Ingemar Johansson
1959: Ingemar Johansson
1960: Floyd Patterson
1961: Joe Brown
1962: Dick Tiger
1963: Cassius Clay
1964: Emile Griffith
1965: Dick Tiger
1966: No Award
1967: Joe Frazier
1968: Nino Benvenuti
1969: Jose Napoles
1970: Joe Frazier
1971: Joe Frazier
1972: Muhammad Ali/ Carlos Monzon
1973: George Foreman
1974: Muhammad Ali
1975: Muhammad Ali
1976: George Foreman
1977: Carlos Zarate
1978: Muhammad Ali
1979: Ray Leonard
1980: Thomas Hearns
1981: Ray Leonard/ Salvador Sanchez
1982: Larry Holmes
1983: Marvin Hagler
1984: Thomas Hearns
1985: Marvin Hagler/ Donald Curry
1986: Mike Tyson
1987: Evander Holyfield
1988: Mike Tyson
1989: Pernell Whitaker
1990: Julio Cesar Chavez
1991: James Toney
1992: Riddick Bowe
1993: Michael Carbajal
1994: Roy Jones

"No one's ever seen me fight, just box," said Jones, promoting the belief that his potential would be realized only as the need arose.

Five months later, Jones officially made the jump from 160 to 168 pounds, which was not as substantial as the jump from Tate to Toney. The most eagerly anticipated bout of 1994 was analyzed as a matchup of Jones' instinct against Toney's learned skills. It was just as easy to envision Toney bulldozing Jones out of the ring as it was picturing Jones outmaneuvering Toney, and as a result the defending champion answered the opening bell only a 6-5 favorite.

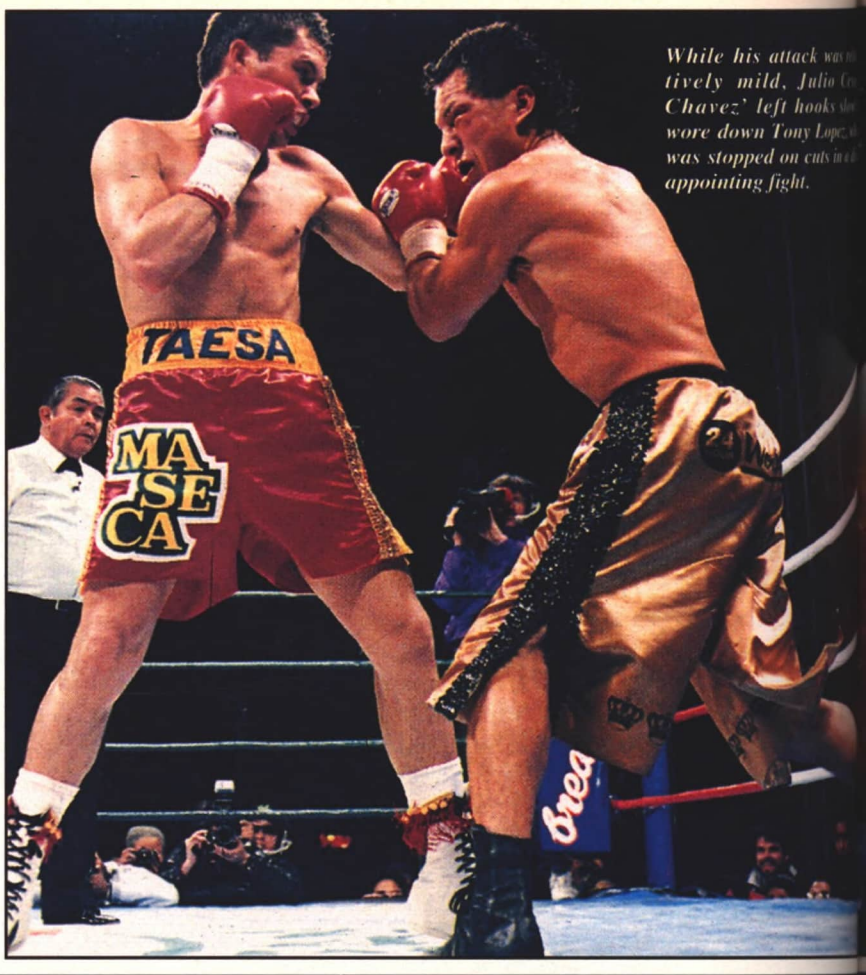
Who figured it to be a virtual mismatch or, as Jones put it, "better than my fantasy"? The top dog masterfully kept Toney on a leash for 12 rounds, scoring a flash knockdown, punching first and last, and pitching a near-shutout. So if Toney was considered by a good portion of the experts to be the best fighter in the world ...

***

On a warm but rain-drenched Saturday in December, Roy Jones Jr. works a few rounds on the bags at the Triple Threat Gym in McAfee, New Jersey. He isn't anticipating a fight for three or four months, but he wants to work up a sweat for the photo shoot that will produce the cover of

(Continued on page 54)

By Bernard Fernandez



While his attack was relatively mild, Julio Cesar Chavez' left hooks slowly wore down Tony Lopez, who was stopped on cuts in a disappointing fight.

CHAVEZ-LOPEZ

The Good Fight Was Bad

Beware the opinions of the boxing cognoscenti.

It is we so-called experts, after all, who confidently pronounced that Buster Douglas had as much a chance of beating Mike Tyson in Tokyo as Custer did of whipping Sitting Bull at Little Big Horn; that the impossible dream of 45-year-old George Foreman would be wrecked forever by Michael Moorer; that James Toney vs. Roy Jones was as close to a matchup of equals as anyone had a reasonable right to expect. We have offered these and more of our deepest professional thoughts for widespread consumption, only to find ourselves snacking on heaping portions of crow and humble pie.

You might think by now that we would be extremely hesitant to go on record predicting, say, that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west. But as Gary Cooper—or was it John Wayne?—once said, a man's gotta do what a man's gotta do. Which is why, on a recent trip to Monterrey, Mexico, this reporter clattered away on a laptop computer, filing advances for a newspaper and boldly forecasting the outcome of the major bouts on promoter Don King's latest pay-per-view extravaganza. Hey, public embarrassment is part of the job. And besides, sometimes the experts even get one right.

This, then, is a tale of human error, of the imprecision attendant to the forecasting of sporting events, and the discomfort—and sometimes joy—of being proven wrong.

It is, in short, the story of two fights, Jorge Castro vs. John David Jackson and Julio Cesar Chavez vs. Tony "The Tiger" Lopez, which again illustrated that nothing is quite as it seems. At least not always.

All available information suggested that Castro, who would be making his second defense of the WBA middleweight title he had won after the organization had stripped it from Jackson, would be a stinker. Castro, an Argentine built along the lines of Juan Roldan and bearing more than a slight facial resemblance to his idol, the late Victor Galindez, is a stylistic composite of his countrymen: strong, awkward, and as rough as a sheet of unused sandpaper. That is a stark contrast to Jackson, a tall, slick-boxing southpaw who is often described as a technician and craftsman, which, of course, are code words for boring.

The prefight prediction: The undefeated Jackson would flick the right jab, stay out of harm's way, and peck his way to an efficient and numbingly unexciting decision victory.

Chavez-Lopez offered more potential for explosive action. Lopez, a three-time world champion in two weight divisions, is an honest workman who always comes to fight. More than a few knowledgeable boxing people believed he would beat a fading Chavez, maybe even convincingly. While this reporter didn't share that view, the Mexican legend, who was defending the WBC super lightweight title, would surely be pushed to the limit. The prediction: Chavez by decision in a bloody, brutal war.

What we got on a chilly night in Estadio de Beisbol Monterrey was something else entirely. Castro, 160, Caleta Olivia, Argentina, pounded to the brink of submission by an unexpectedly aggressive Jackson, miraculously landed a big left hook in the ninth round that changed the course of the bout 180 degrees. A dazed Jackson, 160, Los Angeles via Seattle, was floored three times by the suddenly invigorated Castro, and referee Stanley Christodoulou (South Africa), who only moments before had been ready to award a TKO victory to the challenger, stepped in and waved the fight to a halt 2:43 into the round. At the time of the stoppage, Jackson was far ahead on the cards. (The judges were Mexico's Hector Hernandez and Eduardo Luna and Canada's Guy Jutras.)

The revised, postfight position: Instant classic. Most stunning turnaround in years. Late-season candidate for Fight of the Year.

"He was beating the crap out of me," admit-

For most of his challenge of WBA middleweight champion Jorge Castro, southpaw John David Jackson banged away. But one left hook changed everything.

& CASTRO-JACKSON

Photos by David Leah/Allsport

The Bad Fight Was Good

ted the 27-year-old Castro, 96-4-2 (67), who showed up at the end-of-the-card press conference with his misshapen face swathed in so many bandages, he did not so much resemble Galindez as Boris Karloff in *The Curse Of The Mummy*. "But I never gave up, I never thought of quitting. Somewhere in the ninth round, the hand of God touched me. You saw the result."

Jackson, 32-1 (19), who said he had been spurred into perhaps his most entertaining performance by political forces over which he felt he had no control, accepted the blame for going for the finish when he might have continued to pick Castro apart.

"I got careless," said the 31-year-old

Lopez' plan was to counter, but when Chavez landed right hands like this, there was no response. Through most of the bout, "The Tiger" proved toothless. The end came in the 10th.

Referee Stanley Christodoulou flashes his fingers to Jackson in the fateful ninth round (above). Afterward, the battered Castro didn't seem to mind the wounds of war (right).

Jackson. "I was too overconfident because I was shutting him out. But [Jackson's dispute with the WBA] is all I thought about. The outside influences in boxing cost me my belt, and I knew it was best if I just went ahead and knocked him out."

A knockout by their hero was what a pro-Chavez crowd of 25,000 had come to see. King had hyped the event as the kickoff to "The Final Journey," a six-fight farewell tour for Chavez that would carry through the end of 1995 and conclude with a third and climactic meeting of "J.C. Superstar" and his sole official conqueror, WBA junior welterweight champion Frankie Randall. In what was tantamount to coming attractions, Randall, who successfully defended with a seventh-round TKO of Rodney Moore, was also part of the show.

"Julio has six fights to go to get to 100," King had said several days earlier. "We're calling it the Final Journey, kind of like *Star Trek* with William Shatner. The third fight with Randall will be the 100th and last fight of his career. It'll be the sendoff to end all sendoffs. Each fight between now and then will be an event."

That's the plan, and King is sticking to it. But there are problems. One is King's arithmetic; heading into the Lopez bout, the promoter was citing Chavez' record as 92-1-1 (78). However, *Fight Fax*, Phill Marder's meticulously researched listing of fighters' records worldwide, had Chavez at 91-1-1 (75). If Chavez and Randall were both to avoid a slip up along the way, their rubber match would be, in the estimation of those news organizations that subscribe to *Fight Fax*, number 99, not 100.

An impatient sort, and perhaps aware that his grasp on the scepter has loosened, Chavez said he would have preferred to go for a third showdown with Randall immediately instead of scheduling it so far down the road. If recent boxing history has revealed anything, it's that too many pairings of the best and the brightest tend to be lost forever while lingering on hold. Tyson-Holyfield (twice), Lewis-Bowe, Canizales-Jones, McKinney-Patterson ... the list goes on and on.

(Continued on page 54)

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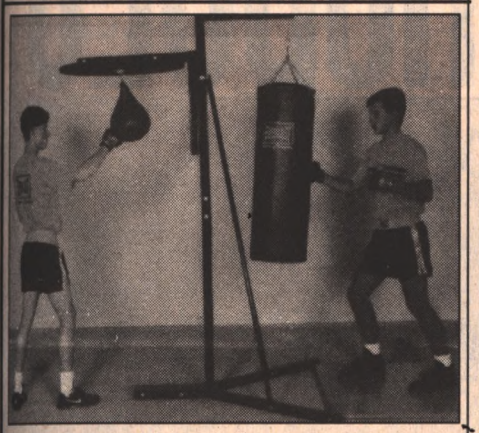

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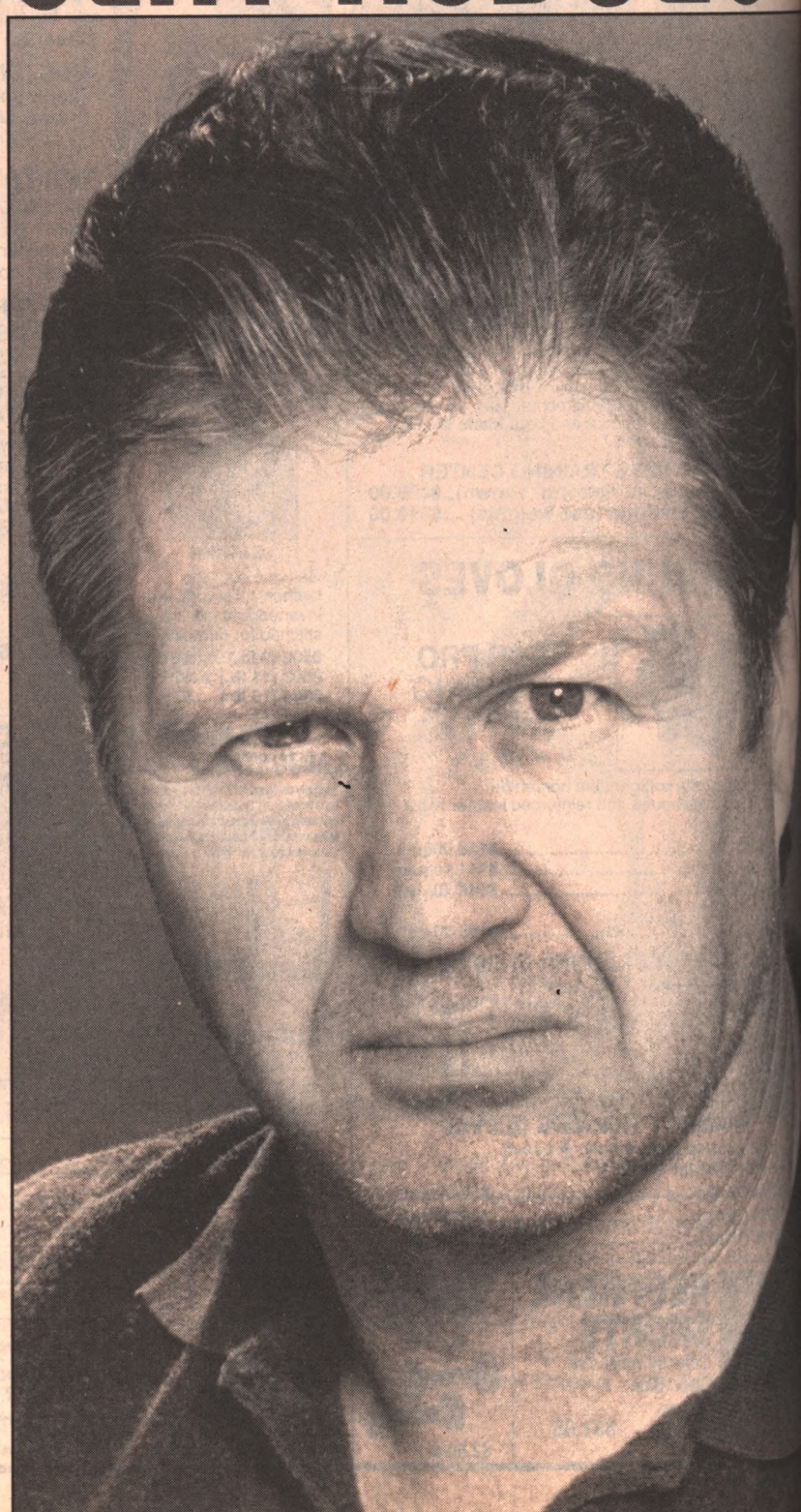
Photo by Teddy Blocktburn

HEAVYWEIGHT CLAY HODGES

THE MAN WHO BEAT FOREMAN ... BUT LOST TO DEMPSEY



By Pete Ehrmann

He beat George Foreman, but was robbed against Jerry Quarry. Jack Dempsey almost killed him, but he flattened Red Buttons.

Clay Hodges used to be one of America's best amateur heavyweights. Now he loses almost every fight—and thinks it's a fantastic way to make a living.

"Whenever they need a white heavyweight, they call me," says the handsome, 6'4" Hodges, who at age 53 doesn't look very much different from when he reigned as national amateur heavyweight champion 27 years ago and dreamed of Olympic glory. But he doesn't do his fighting in the prize ring anymore. For the last 12 years, Hodges has been a professional actor, doing movies and television and getting punched out by some of Hollywood's biggest stars.

He has gotten in a few good licks of his own. As Sailor Lawson, George C. Scott's heavyweight hope in the film *Movie! Movie!*, Hodges kayoed his trainer, played by Red Buttons, but, alas, was then whacked out himself,by a kid peddling sandwiches in the gym.

Hodges is particularly proud of his pivotal role in the film *China Syndrome*. "I'm the guy who kills Jack Lemmon," he says.

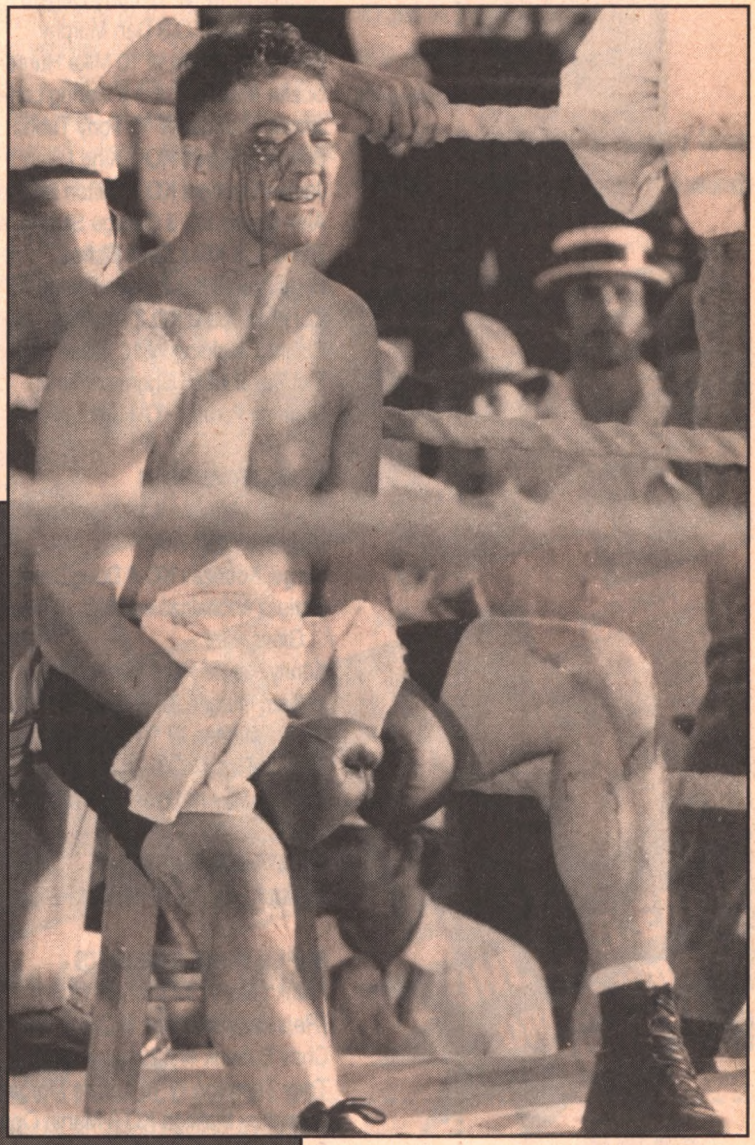
The Los Angeles native loves his life as an actor, but if Hodges were to make a movie about his own boxing career, he would just as soon leave some scenes and characters on the cutting room floor. Take, for instance, his fight with Jerry Quarry for the Los Angeles Golden Gloves heavyweight title in 1965. Hodges floored Quarry in the second and third rounds, but the split decision victory went to Quarry.

Even after 30 years, that result sticks in Hodges' craw.

"There's no way in hell I lost that fight," he insists, adding that the most surprised person in the Olympic Auditorium when the decision was announced seemed to be Quarry himself.

"Over the years I've had at least 25 people come up and tell me there's no way he won that fight," Hodges says. "It was one of those political things. To do something like that is a very heinous thing and repudiates all the good things about boxing."

The good thing about the sport for Hodges was that it transformed him in high school from a



Real life: In the 1965 Los Angeles Golden Gloves heavyweight title fight, Hodges twice floored Jerry Quarry (left) but still lost the decision. Reel life: In the film ***Dempsey****, Hodges was cast as the badly battered Jess Willard (above).*

self-described "Joe Geek," who couldn't run without tripping over his own feet, into a strapping, championship-caliber athlete.

Up until the end of his junior year, Hodges was only 5'4". Then, over the following summer, he grew six inches, and when school resumed,

(Continued on page 62)

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Riddick Bowe W 12 Larry Donald
Tony Tucker KO 3 Dan Murphy
Alexandre Zolkin W 10 Mike Hunter
Buster Mathis Jr. KO 9 Garing Lane
Jimmy Thunder W 12 Tony Tubbs
Bobby Crabtree KO 1 King Ipitan
James Oyebola KO 4 Clifton Mitchell
Alex Garcia KO 3 George Stephens
David Tua KO 1 Cecil Coffee
Boris Powell KO 2 Dave Cherry
Curtis Shepard KO 2 Max Key
Richard Jackson W 10 Jesse Shelby
Tim Puller KO 8 Sherman Griffin
Samson Po'uha KO 1 Jeff Lally

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Anaclet Wamba W 12 Marcelo Dominguez
(Retains WBC Title)
Sergei Kobozev KO 8 Doug Davis
Dariusz Michalczewski KO 10 Nestor Giovannini
Kenny Keene KO 3 Marin Lopez
William Guthrie KO 2 Donnie Pendleton
Ernest Mateen W 10 Ron Preston
Tony LaRosa KO 3 Lenny LaPaglia
Torsten May KO 6 Jason Waller

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Crawford Ashley W 12 Nicky Piper

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Frank Liles W 12 Michael Nunn
(Retains WBA Title)
Chris Eubank W 12 Henry Wharton
Tony Thornton W 10 Lenzie Morgan
Sugarboy Malinga KO 9 Martin Opperman
Cecil McKenzie W 12 Cecil Pettigrew
Hard Rock Green KO 4 Victor Davis
Alex Hilton KO 9 Guy Stanford

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Bernard Hopkins D 12 Segundo Mercado
(For Vacant IBF Title)
Jorge Castro KO 9 John David Jackson
(Retains WBA Title)
Dana Rosenblatt KO 8 Frank Savannah
Otis Grant W 10 Jerry Lee Williams
Richie Woodhall KO 11 Art Serwano
Neville Brown KO 9 Antonio Fernandez

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Bronco McKart KO 9 Ian Garrett
Paul Vaden KO 6 Eriberto Valdez
Winky Wright KO 3 Ernesto Sena
Anibal Acevedo KO 1 Jorge Maysonet
Derrick Rolon W 10 Kevin Pompey
Glenn Catley KO 5 Kirkland Laing
Leonard Townsend KO 4 Aaron Masterson

WELTERWEIGHTS
Felix Trinidad KO 8 Oba Carr
(Retains IBF Title)
Eamonn Loughran Tech. Win 5 Manning Galloway
Freddie Pendleton KO 10 Steve Larrimore
Maurice Blocker KO 4 Hector Lopez
Bolillo Gonzalez KO 8 Wilbur Kiggundu
Andrei Pestriaev KO 10 Darryl Lattimore
Darryl Lattimore KO 3 John Meekins
Freddie Ladd KO 2 Eric Vasquez
Suk Hyun Yun W 10 Jung Oh Park
Lorenzo Smith W 10 John Jeter
Pepe Reilly KO 1 Antonio Ojeda
Buck Smith W 12 Verdell Smith

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Frankie Randall KO 7 Rodney Moore
(Retains WBA Title)
Julio Cesar Chavez KO 10 Tony Lopez
(Retains WBC Title)
Steve Johnston W 10 Freddy Valera
Vince Phillips KO 4 Shibata Flores
Jan Bergman KO 2 Mike Johnson
Rocky Balboa KO 2 Jose Caba
Sammy Fuentes KO 6 Daniel Hernandez
Pepe Reilly KO 5 Ismael Diaz
Pedro Saiz W 10 Donald Allison
Anthony Boyle W 10 Roland Commings
Brian Mitchell KO 6 Mike Evgen

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 5 Calvin Grove
(Retains WBC Title)
Nazarov Olzubek KO 2 Joey Gamache
(Retains WBA Title)
Rafael Ruelas KO 3 Omar Pacheco
(Non-Title Bout)
Oscar De La Hoya KO 9 John Avila
Jean Baptiste-Mendy KO 9 Racheed Lawal
Marty Jakubowski W 12 Dwayne Swift
Rodrigo Cerda W 10 Lupe Pintor
Lester Ellis KO 1 Al Coquilla
Karl Taylor W 8 Dingaan Thobela

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Victor Hugo Paz W 12 Jesus Gutierrez
Jacobin Yoma W 8 Hocine Hassani
Aaron Zarate KO 7 Ditau Molefyane
Louie Espinoza KO 7 Julian Flores
Phillip Holiday W 10 Harold Miller
Jeff Mayweather W 10 Ramon Sanchez

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Eloy Rojas W 12 Luis Mendoza
(Retains WBA Title)
Alejandro Gonzalez KO 3 Eduardo Montes
Tracy Patterson W 10 Daryl Pinckney
Hector Lizarraga W 12 Gabriel Castro
Louie Leija KO 3 Jose Garcia
Rudy Zavala KO 8 Felipe Garcia
David Santos W 10 Alberto Rendon
Mike Garcia W 10 Benito Rodriguez

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Marco Antonio Barrera KO 8 Eddie Cook
Jesus Salud KO 6 Cesar Decena
Jose Badillo KO 3 Carlos Ramirez

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Yasuei Yakushiji W 12 Joichiro Tatsuyoshi
(Retains WBC Title)
Naseem Hamed KO 3 Laureano Ramirez
Mbulelo Botile W 10 Jose Ayala
Drew Docherty W 12 Adey Benton
Jose Luis Bueno KO 4 Arturo Estrada
Paulie Ayala W 10 Juan Francisco Soto

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Harold Grey W 12 Vincenzo Belcastro
(Retains IBF Title)
Johnny Tapia KO 2 Rolando Bohol
Danny Romero KO 1 Andres Cazares
David Griman KO 2 Joel Nice

FLYWEIGHTS
San Sor Ploenchit KO 11 Danny Nunez
(Retains WBA Title)
Robbie Regan W 12 Luigi Camputaro
Roberto Alvarez W 10 Francisco Carrazco
Jose Lopez KO 4 Alberto Cantu
Narcisco Rodriguez W 10 Jorge Barrera

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Carlos Murillo KO 9 Eric Griffin
Jesus Chong KO 3 Raul Rios
Paul Weir W 12 Paul Oulden

STRAWWEIGHTS
Ricardo Lopez KO 1 Yamil Caraballo
(Retains WBC Title)

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

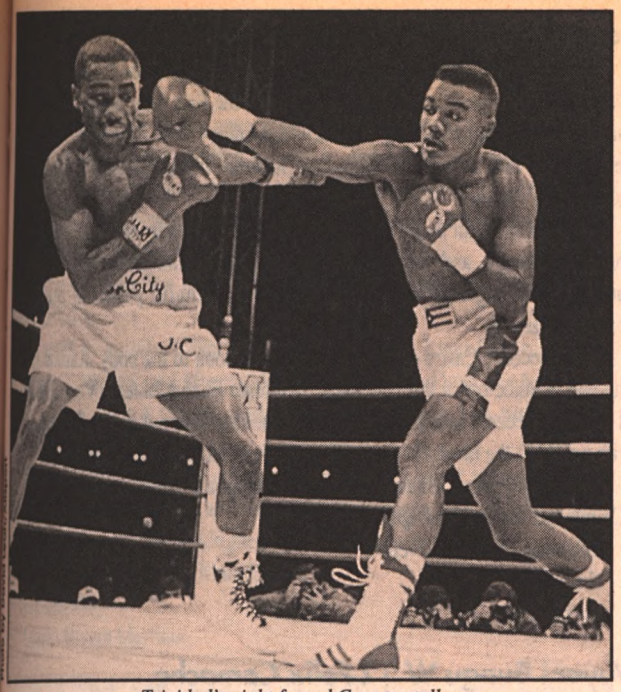
Until December 17, it was easy to dismiss Castro as one of the favored few of the alphabet boys. The prolific middleweight (102 fights by age 27) had challenged Terry Norris for the WBC super welterweight title (in 1991) and dueled with Roy Jones (in '92). In those fights, if you scored as many as five of 22 rounds for the Argentine, you were guilty of excessive generosity, if not pity. Almost predictably, Castro's failures led to a try at the vacant WBA 160-pound crown, and Castro was crowned in August after nipping Reggie Johnson by highly questionable—and some would say hometown—decision.

Castro may be short on boxing skills, but in his second defense he revealed a championship heart. Butchered by John David Jackson, the titlist turned the fight with a single left hook and went on to retain the crown by ninth-round TKO.

One of the last title fights of the year surely rated first for drama and excitement.

• • • •

Jorge Castro



Trinidad's right forced Carr to stall

Felix Trinidad KO 8 Oba Carr

Monterrey, Mexico: The message is becoming clear: Don't wake up Trinidad by knocking him down in the second round. Yori Boy Campas did it. Anthony Stephens did it. Alberto Cortes did it. Jake Rodriguez tried a slightly different approach, allowing Trinidad to injure his right hand in the Puerto Rican's jinx round. But Trinidad came back to beat them all.

And on a Don King-promoted Chavez-Lopez card at the Estadio de Beisbol, Trinidad retained the IBF welterweight title for the fifth time by rising from the canvas to beat Carr, too.

Carr, 145, Detroit, Michigan, thought he would be different from the others when he dropped Trinidad, 146½, Cupey Alto, Puerto Rico, with a left and straight right 13 seconds into the second round. *Oops.* Trinidad jumped right up, smiling and shaking his head. By the fourth he had gained command, sticking in lefts and making Carr miss by slickly sliding away. In the fifth, he began landing with his right, and in the sixth, his combinations bloodied Carr's nose.

Carr, 32-1 (20), seemed near-finished in the seventh, when he began to fire wildly. The end came in the eighth, when Trinidad, 25-0 (21), scored a knockdown with a right uppercut-straight right combination. A second knockdown came via another right, and when Carr rose from a third knockdown, only to absorb a hook and two more rights, referee Robert Gonzalez (USA) called a halt at the 2:41 mark.

The judges were Frank Garza (USA), Roberto Ramirez (Puerto Rico), and Hector Vilches (Mexico).

"I hope to avoid them [knockdowns]," said Trinidad, "but if it happens again, I'm going to get up again and get right back after [the opponent]. Oba Carr's a great boxer. He gave me a good punch and I felt it."

A few years ago, Carr, 22, was the hottest prospect at the Kronk gym. But a recent shortage of quality opposition has clearly hurt his development.

"It just wasn't my night," he said, "but I'll be back. I take my hat off to him. I tried like a world champion, but I just didn't come out victorious tonight."

(12-10-94)

Bruce Williams

Frankie Randall KO 7 Rodney Moore

Monterrey, Mexico: It took 35 seconds for Randall to set the tone. Making his first defense as part of the Chavez-Lopez undercard at the Estadio de Beisbol, the WBA junior welterweight champion scored a delayed-reaction knockdown with a left hook. Moore jumped right up, but Randall was already well on his way to a sterling performance and a convincing victory.

What Randall, 140, Morristown, Tennessee, wants most is a third bout with WBC 140-pound champion Julio Cesar Chavez. By masterfully rejecting the challenge of Moore, 139, Philadelphia, he probably hurt his cause; at this point, promoter Don King isn't likely to match "J.C. Superstar" that tough.

The 33-year-old Randall wasn't even at 100 percent for the bout.

"I had stomach cramps and nausea, and for a while they bothered me quite a bit," he said. "I just sucked it up. He was in good condition, and I beat him with a lot of bodyshots. I thank the Lord for giving me the strength to do what I did."

By far the more accurate puncher, Randall, 51-3-1 (40), forced Moore, 34-9-2 (17), to retreat and bloodied the challenger's nose in the fourth. The Philadelphian proved willing in the exchanges, but Randall's body attack slowly sapped him of his energy, and by the sixth his legs were shaky. In the seventh, a left-right-left-right combination drove Moore, 29, to the ropes, and when a pair of blows snapped back the challenger's head and punctuated an unanswered 20-punch flurry, referee Kenny Bayless (USA) intervened at the 1:43 mark.

The judges were Duane Ford (USA), Art Lurie (USA), and Alejandro Rochin (Mexico).

"Rodney Moore was tough, but he had a big mouth," said Randall. "He gave me big incentive to train better. I think tonight I turned back the clock to when I was 22 and fought Edwin Rosario."

What Randall really wants to do is turn the clock *ahead* and get on with a third fight with Chavez.

"Chavez is the fight I want," he said, "the one the people want to see. I want to get Chavez as soon as we can."

It's anticipated "The Surgeon's" next defense will not be against Chavez, but rather England's Ross Hale.

(12-10-94)

Bruce Williams

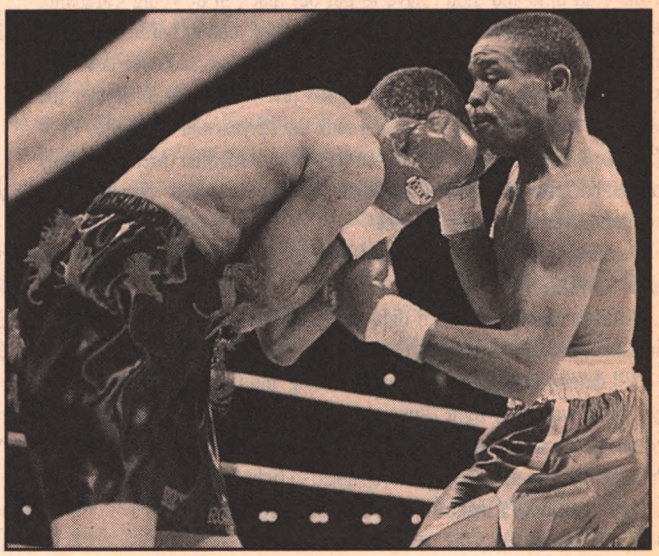


Photo by David Leah/Allsport

Randall proved far too strong for Moore

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Lopez has grown accustomed to the winner's circle

Ricardo Lopez KO 1 Yamil Caraballo

Monterrey, Mexico: When Don King called on Lopez to bolster the undercard of Chavez-Tony Lopez, the WBC strawweight champion would have been excused for feeling a bit tired. It would be his third defense in less than three months. Moreover, "El Finito" was coming off a tough win on November 12 over Javier Varguez in which he injured both his hands and suffered a gash on his head that required five stitches.

Nonetheless, the 27-year-old Lopez, 104, Tacubaya, Mexico, defended for the 13th time and didn't have to put out much in downing Caraballo, 104, Cartagena, Colombia. Caraballo did a lot of talking before the fight, promising to avenge countryman Kermin Guardia's loss to Lopez last May. As it turned out, Lopez, 39-0 (29), needed just 70 seconds to destroy the challenger. A perfect right to the chin sank the 25-year-old Caraballo, 13-5-1 (5), like a stone. He tried to rise, but referee Jose Medina (Mexico) wisely wrapped his arms around the Colombian and called a halt. It was among the most definitive kayo wins of the year.

The judges were Harold Laurens (Curacao), Marty Sammon (USA), and Daniel Van Del Wiele (Belgium).

"Ricardo caught me cold; I didn't have an opportunity to do anything," said Caraballo. "He's a great fighter."

"I'll defend my title as long as Don King and God permit me," Lopez said. "I do want that light flyweight title [held by countryman Chiquita Gonzalez]. To win a world championship is something special, though; I don't want to give up mine until I've signed to fight for a new one."

Lopez added he'll make his next defense in March.

(12-10-94)

Bruce Williams

Jorge Castro KO 2 Alex Ramos

Caleta Olivia, Argentina: WBA middleweight champion Castro, 159¼, Caleta Olivia, Argentina, retained the title for the first time, easily rejecting the challenge of comebacking 33-year-old Ramos, 159¾, Bronx, New York, before 5,000 fans at Ingeniero Knudsen Stadium (literally around the corner from Castro's home).

This was no fight at all. Castro, 96-4-2 (66), began by winging punches from every angle, and Ramos, 39-10-2 (24), did nothing but cover up. In fact, the challenger didn't throw a single meaningful punch in the 4½ minutes of action.

In the second, Castro connected with a left hook to the body. Ramos fell and was counted out at the 1:31 mark by referee Enzo Montero (Venezuela). "I felt him freeze," said Castro. "I really knocked him out in the first round with a right to the head. He was still on his feet but totally knocked out."

The judges were Manuel Gonzalez (Panama), Washington Gonzalez (Chile), and Manuel Rodriguez (Colombia).

Promoter: Osvaldo Rivera

(11-5-94)

Carlos Irusta

Vuyani Bungu W 12 Felix Camacho

Hammanskraal, South Africa: Making his first defense of the IBF junior featherweight title, Bungu scored a unanimous decision over U.S.-based Puerto Rican Camacho in a fast-paced, albeit unspectacular, fight before an estimated crowd of 4,000 at the Carousel gambling resort.

Bungu, 121¾, East London, South Africa, had no trouble with the shifty southpaw style of Camacho, 122. Even though the champion won easily enough, this was a low-key performance compared to his magnificent title-winning fight vs. Kennedy McKinney last August.

There are those who believe fast-moving boxers give Bungu trouble. Camacho proved slick, but also a light puncher. Neither fighter did much through the first two rounds. In the third, Bungu, 25-2 (17), wisely began to attack the body. The ever-backtracking Camacho, 17-5 (6), rarely connected with his combinations, and when he did, they didn't trouble the champion. It was a clean bout, and referee Clement Martin (South Africa), who was working his first world title fight, had little to do.

Camacho is the younger brother of former two-division world champion Hector Camacho.

Lulama Mtya (South Africa) scored 118-111, Enzo Scala (Italy) 119-110, and Dr. Clark Sammartino (USA) 117-111.

Promoters: Rodney Berman, Cedric Kushner

(11-19-94)

Ron Jackson

John-John Molina KO 10 Wilson Rodriguez

Bayamon, Puerto Rico: Making his seventh and presumably final defense of the IBF junior lightweight title, Molina, 130, Fajardo, Puerto Rico, stopped mandatory challenger Rodriguez, 129½, Spain, via Dominican Republic, before a crowd of 8,100 at Ruben Rodriguez Coliseum.

The 28-year-old Molina, who has reigned since February 1992, will move up to lightweight. As we went to press, a showdown with unbeaten "Golden Boy" Oscar De La Hoya was scheduled for February 18.

This was a fast-paced encounter, with Rodriguez, 28, proving to be a worthy challenger. Anxious to satisfy his local fans with a quick knockout, Molina, 36-3 (26), started with fire, but Rodriguez, 38-6-3 (19), stayed out of range. The Dominican displayed good hand speed but

limited power. He remained competitive until suffering a cut over his left eye in the sixth. After that, he began to show signs of wear and tear and fatigue.

Concentrating on his opponent's body, Molina proved to be too strong. In the 10th, he suddenly shifted his attack, and a right uppercut-left hook combination sent Rodriguez to the canvas. Molina added a dangerous right to the back of the head as the challenger was falling. Referee Luis Pabon (Puerto Rico) counted out Rodriguez at the 1:41 mark.

The judges were Ric Bays, David McCullough, and Chris Wollesen, all from the USA.

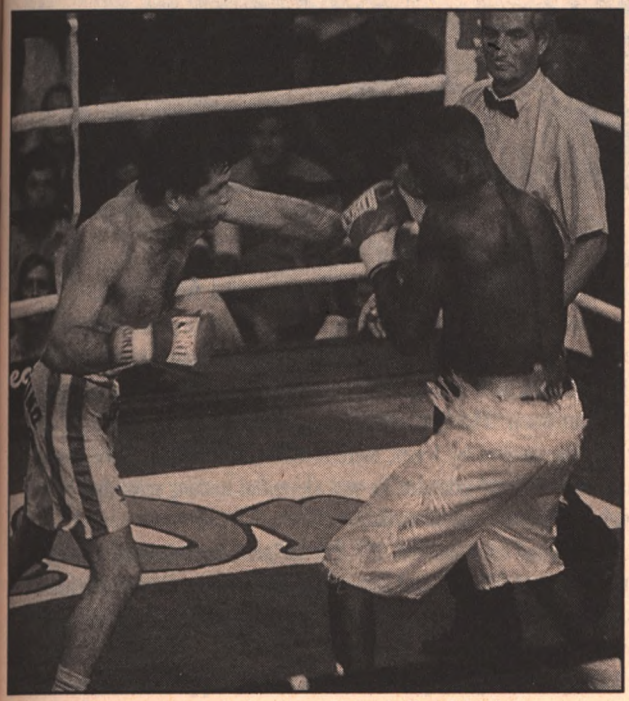
"I want to go where the money is, and where I won't have weight problems," Molina said afterward. "[Manager] Lou Duva has been very good to me, like a father, and he's getting me a 135-pound title match."

Should Molina indeed vacate, the IBF's top-rated contenders are Colombia's Moises Pedroza and unbeaten Duva prospect Ed Hopson. That's assuming, of course, that Rodriguez falls at least two spots.

Promoters: Video Cafe, Main Events

(11-26-94)

Mario Rivera Martino



Vasquez repeatedly hammered Marshall with his left

Julio Cesar Vasquez W 12 Tony Marshall

Tucuman, Argentina: Boxing's busiest champion, WBA junior middleweight titlist Vasquez, kept the crown for the 10th time, chasing Marshall all over the ring and scoring a unanimous decision before 3,500 fans at Club Caja de Comercio.

The southpaw Vasquez, 154, Sante Fe, Argentina, scored with tremendous lefts from start to finish, but the steel-chinned Marshall, a surprisingly light 148½, Albany, New York, via Guyana, remained on his feet throughout. Vasquez, 52-1 (35), maintained pressure, and the featherfisted Marshall's quick and clever counterpunching was virtually ignored by the strong, stocky champion. Marshall fell to 17-4-6 (4).

The decision was unanimous, with Angel Tobar (Venezuela) scoring 119-112, Armodio Cedeno (Panama) 118-110, and Jorge Constantino (Chile) 117-111. The referee was Renato Caddeo (Italy).

Vasquez will defend against WBC welterweight champion Pernell Whitaker on March 4.

Promoters: Osvaldo Rivero, the Acaries brothers

(11-11-94)

Carlos Irusta

Anaclet Wamba W 12 Marcelo Dominguez

Salta, Argentina: One of the longest-reigning champions in boxing, Wamba retained the WBC cruiserweight title for the seventh time, scoring a majority decision over the unheralded Dominguez before a disappointing crowd of 3,500 at Polideportivo Stadium.

Wamba, 190, St. Brieuc, France, via Zaire, struggled throughout against the 24-year-old Dominguez, 182½, Argentina, who was making his international debut. Attacking with more determination than style, Dominguez, 14-1-1 (6), forced Wamba, 45-2-1 (22), to retreat over the first four rounds. From that point on, Wamba landed the harder blows, most of them counters. In the 10th, referee Mickey Vann (England) penalized Dominguez a point for repeatedly losing his mouthpiece. As it turned out, the deduction cost the challenger a draw.

At the final bell, the scene was reminiscent of a *Rocky* movie, with the fans on their feet and screaming in approval of Dominguez' effort.

Rolando Barrovecchio (Italy) scored 115-113, Harry Croes (Aruba) 116-115, and Vince Delgado (USA) 114-114. THE RING had Dominguez in front by 116-115.

Promoters: Osvaldo Rivera, the Acaries brothers, and Hotel/Casino Las Nubes

(12-4-94)

Carlos Irusta

Eloy Rojas W 12 Luis Mendoza

Bogota, Colombia: Featherweight champions Kevin Kelley (WBC) and Tom Johnson (IBF) get all the attention because they're Americans, but boxing fans shouldn't forget WBA titlist Rojas, who is the true linear champion. Remember, it is Rojas who beat the man (Yung Kyun Park) who beat the man (Antonio Esparragoza) who beat the man (Steve Cruz) who beat the man (Barry McGuigan) who beat the man (Eusebio Pedroza).

And at the Coliseo El Campin de Bogota, Rojas, 126, Venezuela, made his third defense by scoring a pair of 12th-round knockdowns and beating Colombian former WBA junior featherweight champion Mendoza, 126, by unanimous decision.

The fighters traded often in the early rounds, with Rojas, 30-1-1 (26), the more effective puncher. Mendoza, 37-5-2 (22), had his best rounds in the sixth and seventh, countering against the aggressive champion. But Rojas cemented his win in the final round by dropping Mendoza with a right to the head, then again with a right. Mendoza claimed the second knockdown was a slip, but referee Carlos Berrocal (Panama) ruled otherwise.

Armando Garcia (USA) scored 117-111, Cesar Ramos (Panama) 116-114, and Guillermo Perez-Pena (Puerto Rico) 115-113.

Rojas' next defense is scheduled for March 24 against Tsuyoshi Harada in Tokyo.

(12-3-94)

Bruce Williams

Yasuei Yakushiji W 12 Joichiro Tatsuyoshi

Nagoya, Japan: Utilizing his considerable reach advantage, WBC bantamweight champion Yakushiji outjabbed and countered countryman

and interim titlist Tatsuyoshi and withstood the challenger's late surge to retain the title by well-received majority decision before 9,800 fans at Rainbow Hall. The highly anticipated battle, which was Yakushiji's third defense, was Japan's Fight of the Year.

Despite having suffered a pair of detached retinas, prefight favorite Tatsuyoshi, 117½, started well, circling and jabbing sharply. Yakushiji, 117¾, began connected with jabs and soft one-twos in the third, but the champion pinned his opponent to the ropes and punched away for portions of the fourth and fifth. The fast pace took its toll; Yakushiji suffered a cut near his right eye and Tatsuyoshi's left eye began to swell up.

The 26-year-old Yakushiji, 23-2-1 (16), took control in the sixth, jabbing and scoring with rights and uppercuts as Tatsuyoshi, 24, bobbed and weaved in an effort to get close. After losing three consecutive rounds, Tatsuyoshi, 10-2-1 (8), his left eye almost closed, rallied in the ninth, and took the 11th and 12th as well. It was an incredible display of heart by a fighter who had clearly underestimated his foe, but it wasn't enough to pull out a victory.

Carol Castellano (USA) scored 116-112, Nobuaki Uratani (Japan) 115-114, and Ken Morita (Japan) 114-114. The referee was Richard Steele (USA).

Having received special permission to fight from the Japan Boxing Commission, Tatsuyoshi retired following the bout. The crowd-pleaser, who is the most popular fighter in Japan, will be sorely missed.

Promoter: Matsuda Promotions

(12-4-94)

Joe Koizumi

Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 5 Calvin Grove

Albuquerque, New Mexico: For a fighter moving up in weight and challenging an established and unbeaten champion, former featherweight titlist Grove was full of confidence. "He's too slow; all I've gotta do is use my head," said the veteran before challenging WBC lightweight champion Gonzalez at Tingley Coliseum.

However, it was the head of Gonzalez, 134½, Mexico City, Mexico, that dominated this, his seventh title defense. To no one's surprise, the 24-year-old champion outpunched Grove, 133½, Coatesville, Pennsylvania, through most of the abbreviated bout. But he also outsmarted him. Grove surrendered on his stool between the fifth and sixth, and referee Joe Cortez (USA) raised Gonzalez' hand, signifying a less-than-satisfying victory.

The judges were Ray Solis (Mexico), Horacio Castilla (Colombia), and Rudy Ortega (USA).

"I wanted to knock him out," said Gonzalez, 35-0 (29). "I trained hard for this fight. He is a very good boxer, but I was better."

In round two, Gonzalez drove the 32-year-old Grove, 46-7 (17), to the ropes with a right to the head. Forced to trade, Grove fired with bad intentions from that point on but was never able to hurt the champion. In the third, the fighters clashed heads and Gonzalez emerged with a small cut on his left brow, prompting Cortez to penalize Grove a point.

Gonzalez accelerated in the fourth, scoring with hooks to the body and head. Grove backpedaled through much of the fifth, but stopped long enough to absorb an unintentional butt that broke his nose. The challenger said he subsequently experienced difficulty breathing.

"I wanted [Gonzalez] to knock down Grove at least one time," said Ricardo Maldonado Jr., the champion's co-manager. "Nobody liked the way the fight ended. We hope to fight again in the last two weeks of February, then maybe move up. I'd really like for Miguel Angel to fight Julio Cesar Chavez, but he's not in the plans of Don King. I think they know Miguel Angel is too dangerous."

After the bout, Grove announced his retirement.

The fight was televised by the USA Network.

Promoters: Azteca Promotions & Fresquez Productions

(12-13-94)

Bruce Williams

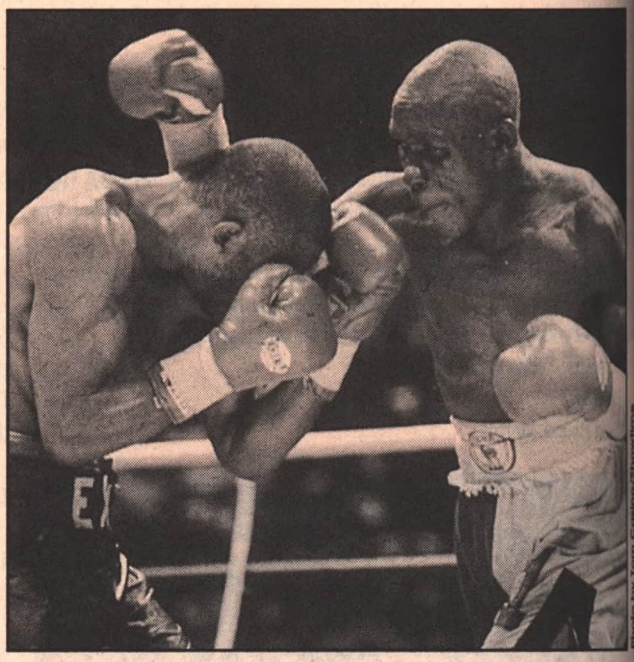


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Against Hopkins, Mercado was tougher than expected

Bernard Hopkins D 12 Segundo Mercado

Quito, Ecuador: Those who long ago predicted Hopkins would become the first-ever Philadelphia-born middleweight champion excused him for failing the first time around. After all, even James Toney has lost to Roy Jones. But when "The Executioner" was matched with Ecuador's Mercado for the title vacated by Jones, there could be no excuses. While Mercado was a respected 160-pounder, he was viewed as nothing more than a speed bump on Hopkins' road to stardom.

As it turned out, Hopkins, 157, Philadelphia, and Mercado, 158, Quito, Ecuador, fought 12 close and hectic rounds at Coliseo General Ruminahui, and given the fight site and circumstances, the American was fortunate to leave town with a split decision draw.

Perhaps fearing the potential effect of his opponent's home court advantage—or maybe it was Quito's 9,000-foot elevation, the visitor arrived in Ecuador only four days before the fight and opened as if determined to battle no more than three minutes. He instantly pinned Mercado, 18-2-1 (11), to the ropes and wobbled him with hooks and straight rights. But by the round's end, Mercado was answering back.

The 29-year-old Hopkins, 26-2-1 (19), pressed his advantage in the second and third, setting an extraordinary pace and landing a handful of lead powerpunches. Mercado, 27, seized the initiative in the fourth, and with 25 seconds remaining in the fifth, felled Hopkins with a right hand.

The middle of the fight belonged to the local favorite. After a big Hopkins right forced Mercado to clinch in the sixth—it took referee Sam Williams (USA) several seconds to break the fighters apart—the Ecuadorian answered by dropping his foe with a right uppercut and a two-handed shove in the seventh. The two points lost by Hopkins in the knockdown rounds cost him the title.

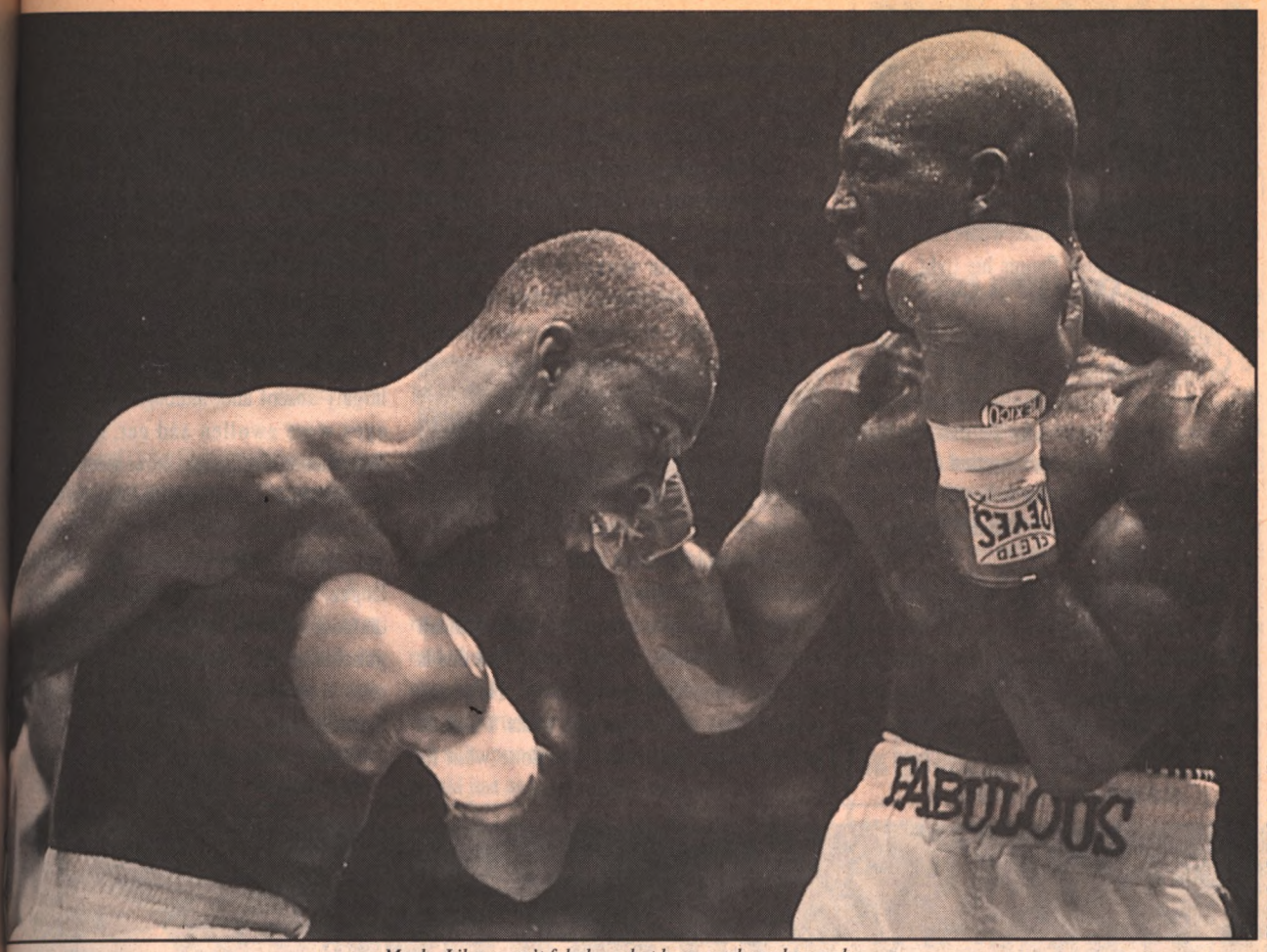


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Maybe Liles wasn't fabulous, but he proved good enough

With Mercado alternately dancing and countering with his back to the ropes, Hopkins seemed to carry the last three rounds. An unintentional butt opened a cut on Mercado's left eyelid in the ninth, and Hopkins maintained a high level of energy until the final bell.

Nonetheless, a draw seemed fair. Al DeVito (USA) scored for Hopkins by 114-111, Francisco Hernandez (Colombia) had Mercado in front by 116-114, and Paul Gibbs (USA) saw it even at 113-113. THE RING scored 113-113.

"I knocked him down twice; I thought I won," said Mercado.

"I think I pulled it out by a point; I'm a warrior," said Hopkins. "We got to do it again."

And they probably will; as we went to press, the IBF had already requested purse bids.

Promoters: Don King, Butch Lewis

(12-17-94)

Frank Liles W 12 Michael Nunn

Quito, Ecuador: The concern was both legitimate and justified: Would a pair of mellow 6'2" southpaws fighting 9,000 feet above sea level huff and puff and bore the house down? As it turned out, defending WBA super middleweight champion Liles and two-division former titlist Nunn offered a mildly entertaining show on the Hopkins-Mercado undercard. Given their reputations, it could have been a lot worse.

Liles, 167, Los Angeles, via Syracuse, New York, was the busier fighter throughout, and the judges favored his aggressive approach to Nunn's sporadic body attack. Nunn, 168, Davenport, Iowa, seemed the fresher fighter at the finish ("I thought I picked it up the last couple of rounds"), but couldn't overcome the champion's points lead.

The decision was unanimous, with Oscar Perez (USA) scoring 114-113, Gonzalo Riveras (Venezuela) 115-112, and Bob Watson (USA) a curious 117-111. THE RING scored for Liles by 114-113. It was the champion's first defense.

The 29-year-old Liles, 26-1 (16) with 1 no-contest, staggered Nunn, 43-3 (28), with a straight left in the first round. Nunn responded by shoving the champion to the floor. (He repeated the infraction three more times.) Delivering short punches and connecting with right hooks, Liles kept busy over the first half of the bout. For his part, Nunn began punching to the body in the third and accelerated his attack until the finish. In the sixth, however, he was penalized a point by referee Rafael Ramos (Puerto Rico) for hitting low.

Liles took the eighth and ninth, then survived Nunn's late rally. For the 31-year-old challenger, it was a story that's beginning to become familiar: A lack of consistency, both offensively and defensively, cost him the decision.

"I gotta give Michael Nunn a lotta credit," said Liles, who also gave the challenger an affectionate postfight peck on the cheek. "More than anything else, I tried to outhustle him. I'd like to do it again, to be honest."

What Liles would like more than a rematch, however, is a crack at IBF 168-pound champion Roy Jones. In 1988, Jones edged him at the Olympic Trials, costing Liles a trip to Seoul. Said Liles, "Roy Jones and I have a score to settle."

Hopkins-Mercado and Liles-Nunn were televised by Showtime.

Promoter: Don King

(12-17-94) ■

Roy Jones

(Continued from page 39)

this issue of THE RING. Jones wants to *shine*.

The latest greatest flaunts his tight, round biceps for the photographer while exchanging one-liners with IBF cruiserweight champion Al Cole, greeting a few friends, and hugging the exiting Hopkins, who is headed for Ecuador, where he will be denied the title vacated by Jones after fighting to a draw with Segundo Mercado. "Bring it home now," he tells Hopkins, who wants a rematch with Jones as soon as possible.

After the cameras have been packed and the backdrops rolled up, Jones sits down to talk. It quickly becomes apparent that no matter the topic of conversation—his unique ability, the uneven pace of his pro career, the Toney fight, even his goals as a champion and man—his father is germane to the story. It's the holiday season, and Levin's words give hope to a full reconciliation: "Little Roy loves his father, there's no question about that."

"Now he understands my point of view," Jones says of Roy Sr. "I have to be a man, do my own thing.

"I was gonna make it one way or another." ■

Chavez & Castro

(Continued from page 42)

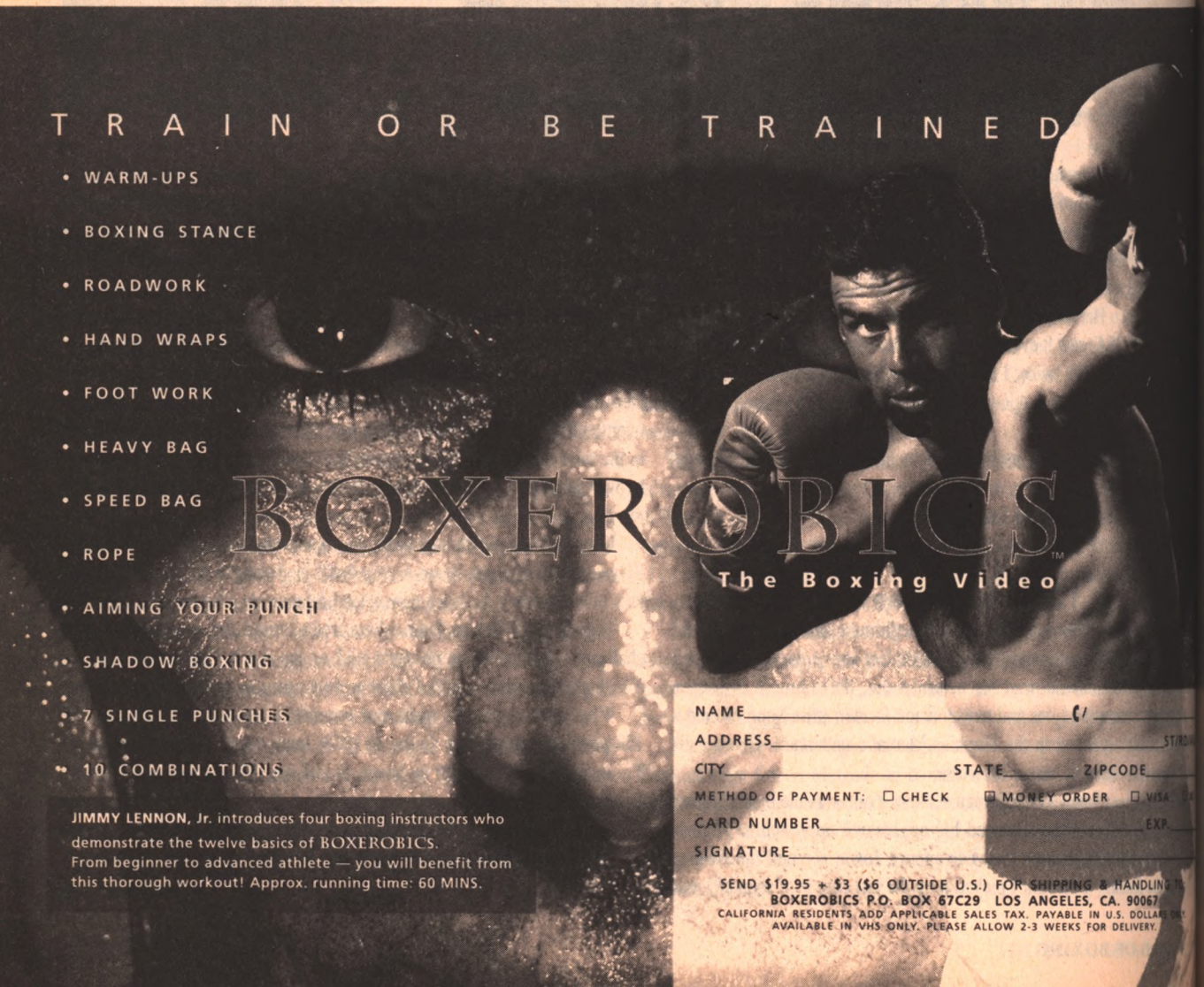
If you have a bird in the hand, why gamble on two in the bush? Or six?

"In my heart, I would like to fight Randall as soon as possible," Chavez said. "But this is a matter Don King must handle. He is my promoter and he arranges my bouts. I will do as he wishes. He always has done what he believes is best for me."

If Chavez-Lopez is the gauge of how m Chavez has left, King might consi shortening the timetable for a third Ran fight. True, Chavez, 140, Culiacan, Me was ahead, and deservedly so, on all th cards when referee Luis Carlos Guzm (Argentina) awarded him a 10th-round T victory, but he seemed curiously uninsp throughout. His most effective weap thudding bodyshots from both wings, w largely absent and, although the challeng eyes were swollen and cut, Lopez, Sacramento, California, never seemed to b serious trouble and absorbed far less dam than had Castro.

"The cuts weren't that bad," complain Lopez, 45-5-1 (32). "I could have gone t distance. You've seen me much worse. punches weren't hurting me. Two sorry cuts and [Guzman] stopped the fig Unbelievable."

The judges were Nicolas Hida



(Venezuela), Harold Laurens (Curacao), and Daniel Van Del Wiele (Belgium).

Chavez, who went to the hospital immediately after the stoppage and did not attend the postfight press conference, said his efforts had been hindered by a sore left shoulder. While praising Lopez as "a valiant fighter," the champion, interviewed in the ring by Ferdie Pacheco before he took off to seek medical attention, said, "My left arm hurt a great deal. Every time I threw my left it hurt. I wasn't fighting at full steam ... I did not give my all."

The revised, postfight position: Some blood spilled, but not exactly an exercise in brutality. More of a skirmish than a war.

Years from now, it's doubtful we'll remember much from Chavez-Lopez. But none of those on hand that night will ever forget Castro-Jackson. And that's quite an admission for those who had expected not so much the worst, but hardly anything at all.

Jackson, whose movie-star good looks call to mind a young Fred Williamson, conceivably could be starring in action movies instead of prize fights. But then life really doesn't imitate art that often, does it? Would Arnold Schwarzenegger be content to toss a few jabs at a cinematic opponent and dance away?

On this night, though, Jackson was determined to be The Terminator. Although he lived and trained in Philadelphia from 1984 to '89, Jackson, born in Denver, raised in Spokane, Washington, and currently a resident of Los Angeles, never fit the image of the typical Philly fighter, which is to say a tough guy who is not hesitant to get as good as he gives, prefers knockouts to decisions, and will take the periodic risk to achieve that end.

For the usually cautious Jackson to stop settling for singles and go for home runs, you had to figure that something was up. And you'd be right.

Jackson's carelessness, if you can call it that, stemmed in part from his desire to win so emphatically that boxing politics would not taint his victory. The WBA had stripped him of the title ostensibly for failing to inform the organization when he accepted a non-title bout last May in Atlantic City. Jimmy Binns, the Philadelphia attorney who serves as the WBA's legal counsel, defended the action against Jackson, but it was a thin beef at best. As is the case with the other world sanctioning bodies, the WBA's rules are interpreted as rigidly or loosely as its power brokers wish.

In any case, Jackson might have gained more than he lost from his first pro defeat. For one evening, at least, he could lay claim to being Mr. Excitement. If only he can come up with more of the same stirring stuff in future outings ...

"I still train in Philadelphia, under Dwight Triplett, when I'm going to fight back East," Jackson said. "No matter where I am, I carry a lot of Philadelphia around with me."

Castro, tough as rawhide and courageous almost to a fault, presumably would be as comfortable toiling in the Blue Horizon as he would strolling the streets of his hometown. It might be argued that, given the quick trigger pulled by referees in other bouts on the marathon card (14 fights in all, 13 of which ended in TKOs), Castro should have been excused by Christodoulou before he ever got the opportunity to launch that ninth-round miracle punch. But that is a point Castro would just as soon not contemplate.

At 4 a.m., Castro was still making the rounds in the restaurant-lounge at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, accepting congratulations from well-wishers when the more prudent option might have been to head up to his room and grab some shut-eye. After all, his eyes already were nearly swollen shut.

In boxing, sometimes what you *don't* see is what you get. ■

Bernard Fernandez covers boxing for the Philadelphia Daily News.

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

The fifth of seven children, Garcia still lives at home. He plays basketball and football, and, like all good Californians, loves the beach. However, boxing has left him little time for other interests.

Garcia's older brother, Danny, had a pro career that lasted 22 fights, and his father, Eduardo, who gleaned his boxing knowledge from a priest while growing up in Mexico, is a foreman in the nearby strawberry fields. The elder Garcia is also head coach at the non-profit La Colonia Youth Boxing Club in Oxnard and splits the training duties of his son

(Continued on page 56)

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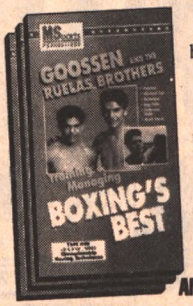

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New Faces

(Continued from page 55)

with Roberto Alcazar, who guides De La Hoya. The family also recently opened up a Mexican restaurant.

While Oxnard isn't as rough as some of the neighborhoods in nearby Los Angeles, "We do have our share of gang problems," says Manuel Herrera, the president of the boxing club. "La Colonia is in a low-income area, and for over 30 years we've helped keep kids off the streets. Robert has been coming to us since he was 10 and is now somewhat of a celebrity here."

Garcia's continued presence at the club is the reason for the unusual nickname embroidered on his boxing trunks: "Grandpa."

Grandpa?

"To all the kids, it seems like I've been boxing there so long, I could be a grandpa," offers the soft-spoken fighter.

Way, way back in 1993, Garcia began his association with promoter Bob Arum and Top Rank. Alcazar, who recognized the fighter's potential in the amateurs (Garcia won 56 of 59 contests) and brought him to Top Rank, describes his fighter as having "a natural punch; it doesn't matter which hand."

There is documentation: Garcia has scored knockouts in 14 of his 18 pro bouts. 1994 was his busiest year yet, with fights in every month but April and October. The opposition has been getting progressively better, and Garcia has responded. Frankie Avelar, a former NABF junior lightweight champion who lasted four rounds with De La Hoya, succumbed in the second against Garcia, and tough veteran clubfighter Bobby Brewer fell in the third.

In November, Garcia made his pay-per-view debut on the undercard of the Toney-Jones clash. The opponent was lanky southpaw and Jones stablemate Derrick "Smoke" Gainer, who, after a shaky start, utilized his reach advantage to pester the aggressive Garcia. Even when Garcia caught his foe on the ropes, Gainer presented an awkward but effective defense. After pursuing his fleet opponent for seven rounds, a frustrated Garcia was dropped early in the eighth by a straight left. He rose quickly and finished strongly, answering any questions about his conditioning. By virtue of his aggressiveness and volume punching, he eked out a close but unanimous decision.

In his most recent effort, Garcia faced Robert Villareal on the undercard of De La Hoya-John Avila in December. Villareal had fought the best, with his only losses coming to champions such as Kevin Kelley, Miguel Angel Gonzalez, and Goyo Vargas. It was a crowd-pleaser as long as it lasted; Villareal, unlike Gainer, was willing to stay close and exchange. Garcia scored a knockdown in the first with a series of combinations and dominated the early action with left hooks, overhand rights, and an evasive defense. But following a toe-to-toe exchange in the third, he put himself off-balance by missing a hook and dropped to one knee after partially absorbing a wild right. He bounced back in the

(Continued on page

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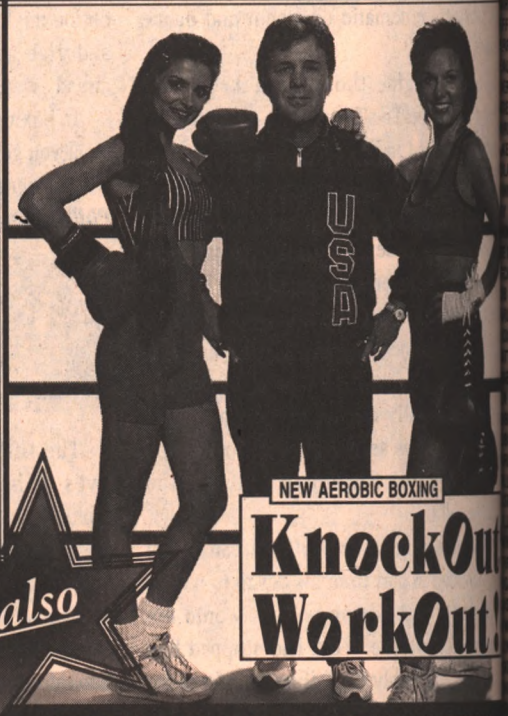

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New Faces

(Continued from page 56)

fourth and came on strong in the fifth to force a stoppage.

While Garcia's punching ability is certain, it's his defense that seems a weakness. He has suffered three knockdowns to date, and while it takes a great deal of determination to be able to rebound, he's nonetheless displayed occasional carelessness. Alcazar acknowledges this: "He used to be just a puncher—a little Mike Tyson. I want to give him defense and technique."

With continued improvement, Garcia hopes to earn a title shot sometime this year. After a break for the Christmas holidays, he expected to return to the ring in February. So far, his exposure to the media has come only through training with De La Hoya and fighting on The Golden Boy's undercards.

"He's a great champion," Garcia says of his longtime friend. "But it's a greater feeling when I'm the main event, when the crowd is there to see *me*."

And the crowds will come, for the word is beginning to spread about a certain Grandpa who fights like a 20-year-old. ■

***Jake Mattox, a freelance writer based in Las Vegas, is a frequent contributor to* THE RING.**

What If ... ?

(Continued from page 29)

tamweight in the world. But he's got something that I want, and now, finally, I'll get my shot at his belt."

Speaking through an interpreter, Pintor responds softly: "Chandler is a good fighter, but he does not have my experience. He has not fought the kind of fighters I have fought, like Carlos Zarate and Albert Davila. When he fights me, he will learn what it takes to be a *real* champion."

When asked whether making 118 pounds would affect his performance, Pintor says, "I do not eat and sometimes I feel weak at the weight. But I will be ready for Jeff Chandler. I will beat him and then move up in weight. Wilfredo Gomez!" Pintor makes a fist [illegible] smiles.

Gomez aside, most fans believe Pintor [illegible] be frustrated by the talented Chandler. [T]he WBC champion has shown a tendency to [illegible] and Chandler is a sharpshooter who [will] readily exploit any such weakness. In addition, Pintor, an infighting left-hooker, [is] a notoriously slow starter. A smooth boxer [as] well as a strong finisher, Chandler could conceivably build a significant points [lead] before the Mexican gets started.

However, there is another argument to be made. Chandler's lean torso makes a perfect target for a body attack, and Pintor possesses the hook that seems a birthright among Mexican fighters. Moreover, Pintor's evaluation of Chandler's opposition is altogether inaccurate.

One further advantage for Pintor: The fight, to be promoted by Peltz Boxing in conjunction with Azteca Promotions, is scheduled for the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles, which, given the ethnic makeup of the fans, might as well be Mexico City. One week before the fight, Chandler is an 8-favorite on the betting boards of Las Vegas. By fight night, a heavy influx of cash from Pintor fanatics makes the bout pick-'em.

THE FIGHT

Round 1: As expected, Chandler opens with movement. He offers not only jabs, but his trademark grin as Pintor unsuccessfully tries to apply pressure. Chandler lands one jab, then another, and then a third. Pintor keeps moving forward and bangs a hook to the body that's partially blocked by Chandler's elbow. Chandler plants his feet and catches Pintor with a solid uppercut as the Mexican bores in. Pintor misses with a left-right and eats another jab.

Round 2: Pintor launches a wild right that Chandler easily avoids. Ever patient, Chandler waits for the right moment, then stuns Pintor with a straight right to the face. Unaware that the WBC champion is hurt, Chandler fails to press his advantage. Pintor quickly recovers and scores with a pair of hooks to the ribs. Chandler holds and waits for referee Rudy Jordan to intervene. Pintor is going to have to find a way to nullify Chandler's reach. If he doesn't, this is going to be a one-sided affair.

Round 3: Pintor can't seem to find his rhythm. His corner implores him to "slip [illegible]

ab, slip the jab!" Pintor paws with his left and Chandler shoots a right hand over it. Pintor rushes in and bangs Chandler to the body. Chandler shoves Pintor back and slides away. Pintor scores with a roundhouse right. Chandler answers with hooks to the body and head. Pintor slams home another right, convincing his opponent to move away. Chandler's legs keep him out of trouble until the bell.

Round 4: Having enjoyed a strong third round, Pintor moves forward with more purpose. Chandler reintroduces his jab, then lands a blistering left uppercut and, as Pintor drops his hands, a straight right to the point of the chin. Pintor is down! The Mexican lifts himself to one knee by Jordan's count of seven and rises at nine. Pintor ducks under a big right hand and responds with a vicious hook to the liver. Chandler isn't grinning anymore. Apparently most dangerous when hurt, Pintor ravages Chandler's body with both hands. Chandler steps back and scores with another left uppercut. The action is furious until the bell.

Round 5: Chandler is moving again, the lesson of round five still fresh. Though fully recovered from the knockdown, Pintor still can't find an answer for Chandler's educated left. He eats a few more jabs, then works his way inside, where he hooks to the ribs and midsection. Applying heavy pressure, Pintor lands low and Chandler complains to Jordan. Pintor adds a right to the head, prompting Chandler to attempt to regain control by flurrying to the head. Five or six blows land flush, but Pintor seems unfazed. Pintor lands a hook a split second after the bell and Chandler screams at Jordan as he returns to his corner.

Rounds 6-10: The sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth are fought at a furious pace. Both fighters seem to silently agree to rest in the 10th. A familiar pattern is repeated in the middle rounds: Pintor absorbs jabs while moving in, then works Chandler's body once within range. However, Chandler also scores well during the phone booth warfare, connecting with hooks and slicing uppercuts. In the eighth, Pintor's skin finally yields to Chandler's razor-sharp jab and blood begins to pour from a cut on his right brow. The cut is a non-factor in the ninth and 10th. All the rounds are hotly contested, but Pintor cuts into Chandler's points lead by taking three of the five stanzas on the official cards.

Round 11: Neither fighter looks particularly fresh, but both have more than enough energy to compete fiercely in the championship rounds. There is minor swelling under both of Pintor's eyes, and Chandler is bleeding from a cut inside his mouth. A jab reopens Pintor's cut, which gives Chandler a target. Jordan looks closely at Pintor, who shoves Chandler to the ropes and digs a hook into his midsection. A right strays low; Jordan issues a formal warning. A few seconds later, Jordan calls time out and motions for the ringside physician to examine Pintor's cut. The fight is allowed to resume. Pintor, sensing the urgency of the moment, bangs a right to the head and a left to the body. Chandler answers with yet another uppercut and moves away.

Round 12: Pintor's face is a mess, but it's Chandler who looks more fatigued. Joltin' Jeff tries to dance to his left, but his legs don't respond. Pintor goes to work, scoring with a right to the head, but Chandler comes right back with a combination that rattles his foe. For the first time since his knockdown, Pintor takes a backward step. Chandler opts to trade. Pintor wings the harder blows till Chandler staggers him with a right uppercut. Sure that his counterpart is hurt, the Philadelphian opens up, forcing Pintor to clinch.

Round 13: Chandler hops up and down, trying to bring life to his legs. He resumes his lateral movement, and Pintor resumes the chase. Neither fighter is scoring cleanly; Chandler misses with jabs and Pintor bobs and weaves but rarely fires. The action slows to a crawl.

Round 14: The champions meet in ring-center and—what a surprise—Pintor hooks to the body. Chandler jabs and crosses with a perfect right. Pintor, still bleeding, takes the blow without flinching. Pintor ducks under a jab and snaps Chandler's head with a right. A followup right lands flush. Suddenly, Pintor accelerates, throwing punches in bunches. Chandler seems hurt, but he punches back with both hands, initiating the best extended exchange of the bout. Chandler slowly gains an edge. Pintor seems punched out.

Round 15: It's been a great fight, and with one minute remaining, the sellout crowd begins to scream and applaud. Chandler keeps jabbing, and Pintor's eye is swollen almost shut. A right rips open a cut under Pintor's right eye. Pintor answers with an overhand right, then falls into Chandler. Pintor is exhausted, and Chandler's punches lack snap. The fighters embrace at the final bell. Chandler wearily raises his arms, while Pintor returns to his stool, where his handlers pour water over his head and apply pressure to his cuts.

THE DECISION

There's no doubt that it is going to be a close, and probably disputed, decision. Chuck Hassett scores 147-145 for Pintor. Vince Delgado scores 144-143 for Chandler. And John Thomas scores 145-142 for the winner

(Continued on page 61)

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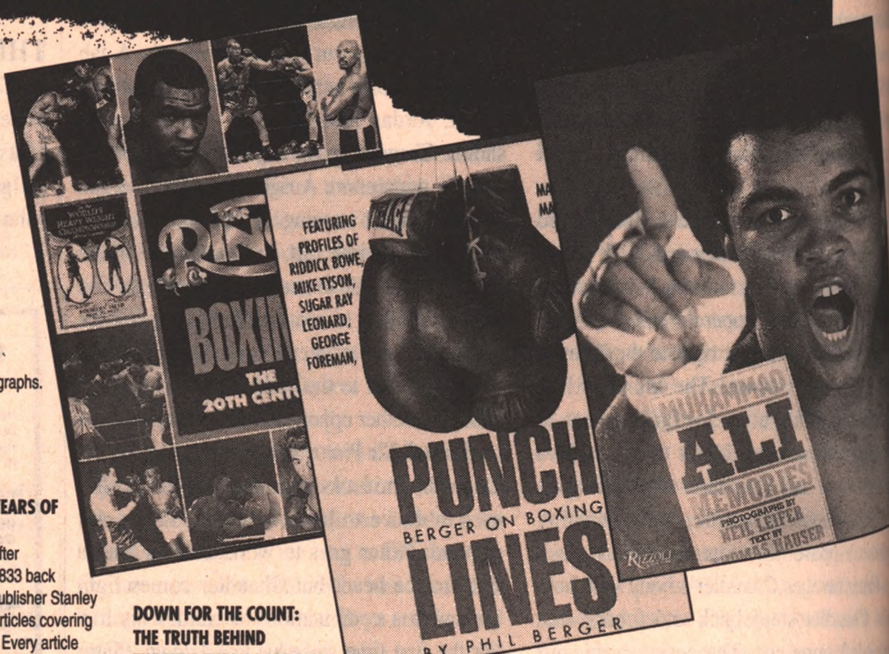

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What If ... ?

(Continued from page 59)

by split decision and unified bantamweight champion of the world ... Lupe Pintor!

THE AFTERMATH

Chandler and Pintor praise each other, but each stresses he thought he won the fight. Some writers instantly label the unification battle Fight of the Year. Half the experts believe Pintor, who never stopped coming forward and consistently hammered the body, is a deserving winner. The other half maintains that Chandler boxed beautifully, landed the bigger punches, and fought on his terms throughout. Everyone calls for a rematch, but it isn't meant to be.

Less than a year after edging Chandler, Pintor exits the bantamweight class and moves up to challenge the long-reigning Gomez. The fight turns out to be similar to the Chandler fight, but this time Pintor is the loser, by late-round kayo. Chandler is matched with Davila for the vacant title and scores a unanimous decision victory, realizing his goal to singlehandedly rule the division—even if it hasn't happened exactly as he had planned. ■

Olzubek-Gamache

(Continued from page 31)

But the collection of red welts around Gamache's body was an ominous sign; every Olzubek blow seemed to have left an angry mark.

Johnny Bos, Gamache's adviser, would later say Gamache had taken such a solid shot to the nose that when he returned to his corner, he said he thought he had suffered a knockdown. Indeed, Gamache came out of the bout with a badly broken beak. "Most people probably missed it," said Bos, "but I knew right away Joey was hurt in the first round."

Round two provided instant fireworks. After some brief parrying, the fighters squared off in a corner and Gamache landed a four-punch combination. Olzubek responded with a four-punch volley of his own. He dropped Gamache with his final shot, a left hand so short it was almost invisible. Struggling to focus as he looked first at Olzubek and then referee John Coyle (USA), Gamache nevertheless rose at the count of six and tried to move out of danger.

As he pursued his stricken opponent with no wasted motion and nary a missed punch, Olzubek's calm and assured manner evoked images of another lanky technician, Alexis Arguello. The champion trapped Gamache in a corner and the pair fiercely exchanged punches in a rapid flurry, though it was clear Gamache couldn't withstand much of such action. Olzubek, 20-0 (15), landed several powerpunches and Gamache, 36-2 (22), sank until his butt was resting on the lowest strand of rope and his body was beginning to slip out of the ring. Coyle stepped in and waved Olzubek away, but when Gamache used the top rope to spring himself upright, there was no mandatory count.

This time the Russian didn't bother with subtlety. Six unanswered haymakers, all left hands, moved Gamache across the ring, with the final punch knocking him over backward. The challenger landed flat on his back, and his head snapped back off the canvas with a terrifying crack. No one in the building will ever forget that sound—and no one expected Gamache to get up before the count of 10. But as Coyle tolled eight, Gamache somehow tried to pick himself up, grasping blindly for the ropes as his nose poured blood. When Coyle reached 10, Gamache was upright, though battered and disoriented.

The judges were Ove Ovesen (Denmark), Fernando Viso (Venezuela), and Nelson Vasquez (Puerto Rico).

"I felt like I never got started," Gamache said afterward, both his eyes swollen. "It wasn't my night, but Olzubek had a lot to do with it. He's an underrated champ. I took 15 straight right hands from Tony Lopez before he put me down [in a 1992 title fight], and this guy hit me once and ...

"I worked hard, trained hard, and really prepared well for this bout. I suppose my sparring partners were not a whole lot like him, but they were tough and durable. I did everything right in training, but that's no guarantee. Tonight I met a guy who punches hard and caught me quick. I wanted to throw more jabs, but I couldn't seem to get untracked."

(Continued on page 62)

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Olzubek-Gamache

(Continued from page 61)

As for the last sequence, Gamache managed a tiny smile. "I don't remember too much," he said.

"People in Maine thought Joey was superman," said Joey Sr. "Lopez took some of that shine off, but this fight really hurt everybody. But don't forget, Joey still got up—he beat the count. Joey Gamache has lots of heart, and I think he's a good little boxer. But I know one thing: If I ever see something like that happen again, I'll make sure Joey retires. That was a terrible thing for a father to watch."

For his part, Olzubek, speaking through an interpreter, said his viewing of tapes had led him to believe the fight would be much tougher. Like every other lightweight, he talked of a fight with Oscar De La Hoya. One suspects that if "The Golden Boy's" handlers get a hold of a tape of the Gamache fight, that matchup won't be materializing anytime soon. ■

Jay N. Miller is* THE RING'S *correspondent for New England.

Clay Hodges

(Continued from page 45)

friends who hadn't seen him for three months didn't know who he was. Backyard boxing lessons from a brother who had fought in the Navy helped Hodges adjust to his new bulk, and he liked the individualism of the sport so much that he took out an AAU card and started in competition.

Notwithstanding a manager whose ring philosophy was "don't outthink or outsmart the other guy, just knock the sonuvabitch out!" and a trainer who got so excited during bouts that he once put Hodges' gumshield in his own mouth, Hodges quickly became one of California's best fighters. He won Golden Gloves titles in Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Las Vegas, and making the U.S. Olympic boxing team became his goal: "To me, to represent your country in an athletic endeavor is the ultimate in sports activity."

Hodges came close in 1964. He won the West Coast Olympic Trials, then went to the New York World's Fair to nail down a spot on the squad that would compete in Tokyo. Unfortunately, he ran into a Philadelphia punching machine named Joe Frazier.

"He had no finesse, but he fought three minutes a round," remembers Hodges of the 1964 Olympic gold medalist and future heavyweight champion who stopped him in two rounds. But, he adds, "until that point I was outpointing him. He wasn't easy to miss."

Setting his sights on the 1968 Olympics, Hodges made it to the finals of the National Golden Gloves in 1966, the year after the Quarry debacle, but lost to New York's James Howard. When he got home, his manager said it was time to turn pro. So Hodges said it was time to find a new manager. He hooked up with Jerry Moore at the Hoover Street Gym and the following year he was the National Golden Gloves champion.

(Continued on page 64)

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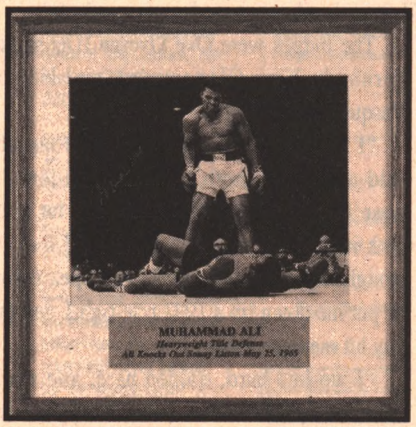

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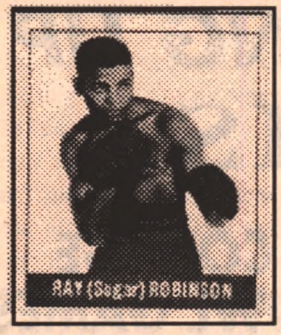

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Clay Hodges

(Continued from page 62)

In 1968, a San Francisco promoter brought Hodges to town to fight a big amateur who was knocking out almost everybody he fought. George Foreman knocked down Hodges in the first round, "but after that he belonged to me, and I beat him like an ugly sister," says Hodges.

They met again in Las Vegas that same year. "It was an exact duplicate of our first fight, a carbon copy," Hodges says. He once again picked himself up off the canvas in round one to outpoint the young Foreman, whose ring style was essentially the same then as now.

"He had no style, but he was just so strong," says Hodges. "There was no snap in his punches, but he swung from the floor, and it was like he blocked you down. Even when he caught you on the arms, it moved you back."

It was Foreman, of course, who went on to the Olympics in Mexico City that year, his gold-medal triumph the springboard for his historic and interminable professional career. As for Hodges, he lost in the first round of the L.A. Golden Gloves and retired from the ring until 1970.

Hodges turned pro to help pay his way through college. He had only four fights, and the second of his three victims was Jimmy Young, the crafty Philadelphian who would go on to become one of the top heavyweights of that decade. In April 1970, Hodges won a decision in their six-round bout. It was Young's fourth pro fight.

Hodges retired for good after losing by fifth-round kayo to one Kenyatta Hockenhull, who broke his jaw. To this day he has absolutely no recollection of the fight, but he remembers coming in to the dressing room afterward. "That scared the hell out of me," he says. After short stints as a policeman and security guard, the 1972 college graduate turned to acting for a living.

He almost made a comeback a few years ago against Tommy Morrison during the filming of *Rocky V*. Morrison played Sylvester Stallone's protege, Tommy Gunn, and Hodges was one of his celluloid kayo victims. But instead of faking the knockout scenes, the filmmakers decided to go for realism and have Morrison actually punch the other actors. One suffered a broken jaw ("I personally picked up one of the kid's molars off the canvas," says Hodges), and another incurred a fractured eye socket.

"If that SOB hits me like that, I'm hitting back," warned Hodges before stepping into the ring for his scene. Morrison swung wide, however, and the punch went by Hodges, who snapped his head back as if actually struck. Score one for acting ability. No retake was necessary.

Hodges' toughest fight on film was against Treat Williams in the television movie made a few years ago about the career of Jack Dempsey. Williams played "The Manassa Mauler," and Hodges was Jess Willard, who Dempsey demolished in three viciously one-sided rounds to win the heavyweight title in 1919.

The director was a stickler for accuracy, so Hodges had to wear three-inch lifts in his boxing shoes to bring him close to Willard's height of 6'6¼". Then each one of Dempsey's seven knockdowns of Willard was painstakingly recreated from several different camera angles.

"I was sorer from that make-believe fight than any real fight I ever had," Hodges says.

Williams' facial resemblance to Dempsey was uncanny, he adds, but after their fight scene, Hodges had some good-natured advice for the film's star: "I told him, 'Be sure to stick with acting, because you couldn't break an egg. My sister hits harder than you.'"

Hodges has acted in about 30 movies and countless TV shows. He also does a lot of commercials and can currently be seen in ads for Bud-Lite and Pepsi-Lite. "One day I'm a cop, the next day I'm a priest. I enjoy it," he says. "Diversity is great."

His dream now is to keep improving as an actor and someday land regular series work. In the meantime, Hodges isn't complaining that Tinseltown keeps making him take worse lumps on film than he ever took in the ring. In the upcoming HBO movie biography of Mike Tyson, he plays one of the former heavyweight champion's first-round kayo victims.

"A thousand dollars a day for getting knocked out one time," laughs the former boxer, who has his own name for the place where he now does his fighting: "Nowhere but in Holly-weird."

Pete Ehrmann, a frequent contributor to* THE RING, *is a freelance writer based in West Allis, Wisconsin.

FISKE ON FIGHTS

By Jack Fiske

The course of history, the quality of life, and the way we toil for our daily pizza have all been fashioned to a large degree by decisions—ours and those of others. Some have been well-planned, some recklessly adapted without thought of the consequences.

Not in the same league as Napoleon's and Hitler's ill-fated battle plans to invade Russia, boxing nevertheless has had its share of decisions that have affected the sport—for better or worse—and made it was it is today.

In a slightly jocular vein, here are some second-guesses regarding decisions that helped shape the face and image of boxing.

What if ...

Jack Dempsey had gone to a neutral corner immediately after flooring Jack Dempsey?

Stanley Ketchel had taken a room at the inn in Conway, Missouri, instead of shacking up with the farmer's daughter?

Marcel Cerdan had booked passage on the Ile de France rather than fly to New York?

Billy Conn had pulled a Pernell Whitaker in the final three rounds against Joe Louis?

Sugar Ray Robinson and Joey Maxim had fought in an air-conditioned Madison Square Garden?

The Communist governments of Cuba and Hungary had permitted Teofilo Stevenson and Laszlo Papp, respectively, to compete unrestricted as professionals?

Angelo Dundee hadn't had a razor blade in his cornerman's kit in London for the Clay-Cooper fight?

Rocky Marciano had been signed to a contract as a catcher with the Chicago Cubs?

As he had originally announced, Sugar Ray Leonard had gone to college after the 1976 Olympics?

Michael Moorer had taken the advice of trainer Teddy Atlas during the George Foreman fight?

George Foreman hadn't discovered Jesus in the dressing room after losing to Jimmy Young?

Cassius Clay's bicycle hadn't been stolen in Louisville?

Don King hadn't been pardoned by the governor of Ohio after serving a term for manslaughter?

Harry Wills had secured a shot at Jack Dempsey's title?

James Toney and Roy Jones had weighed in on the morning of their super middleweight title fight?

Jack Johnson hadn't had a proclivity for white women?

The early-career disqualification loss suffered by Julio Cesar Chavez hadn't been expunged?

Larry Holmes had kept his mouth shut after his first loss to Michael Spinks?

What if Marciano had opted for baseball?

***

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Former light heavyweight champion Maxie Rosenbloom succinctly explained it during a radio interview 50 or more years ago:

"Maxie, how do you feel about your opponent when you're in the ring?"

"I hate him."

"Why?"

"He's hitting me, isn't he?"

"Then why do you hug him and almost kiss him at the end of the fight?"

"He stopped hitting me, didn't he?" ■

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by THE RING are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of October, while the WBC and IBF ratings were compiled as of December.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oliver McCall (USA)	C	–	–
Michael Moorer (USA)	11	C	3
George Foreman (USA)	–	–	C
Tony Tucker (USA)	1	1	1
Lennox Lewis (GB)	2	6	6
Lionel Butler (USA)	3	3	12
Bruce Seldon (USA)	4	2	2
Joe Hipp (USA)	5	5	5
Jorge Luis Gonzalez (CUBA)	6	11	10
Henry Akinwande (GB)	7	9	9
Larry Holmes (USA)	8	–	–
Frank Bruno (GB)	9	–	–
Larry Donald (USA)	10	7	–
Frans Botha (SA)	14	4	4
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	24	8	–
James Stanton (USA)	28	10	–
Buster Mathis (USA)	21	–	7
Corrie Sanders (SA)	17	–	8

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Orlin Norris (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	1	9	5
Carl Thompson (GB)	2	5	6
Adolpho Washington (USA)	3	12	–
Sergei Kobozev (RUS)	4	6	2
Robert Daniels (USA)	5	–	9
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	6	–	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	7	11	7
David Izegwire (NIG)	8	3	–
Dennis Andries (GB)	9	–	–
Mark Randazzo (USA)	10	–	–
Thomas Hearns (USA)	–	1	4
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	19	2	–
Ralf Rocchigiani (GER)	–	4	–
James Heath (USA)	–	7	–
Nate Miller (USA)	12	8	3
Richard Mason (USA)	28	10	11
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	1
Andre Purlet (GUY)	–	–	8
Saul Montana (MEX)	20	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mike McCallum (USA)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	1	2	8
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	2	–	4
Randall Yonker (USA)	3	12	–
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	4	5	–
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	5	3	–
Frank Tate (USA)	6	4	–
Rudy Nix (USA)	7	–	6
Gary Delaney (GB)	8	–	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	9	–	10
Christophe Girard (FRA)	10	–	–
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	23	1	–
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	–	6	1
Brent Kosolofski (CAN)	–	7	–
Duran Williams (USA)	–	8	2
Drake Thadzi (CAN)	–	9	–
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	16	10	–
James Toney (USA)	–	–	3
John Scully (USA)	19	–	5
Charles Williams (USA)	11	–	7
Greg Everett (USA)	–	–	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Frederic Seiller (FRA)	1	10	5
Graziano Rocchigiani (GER)	2	5	–
Tony Byrd (USA)	3	1	1
Steve Little (USA)	4	2	9
James Toney (USA)	5	–	–
Thulane Malinga (SA)	6	–	–
Cornelius Carr (GB)	7	–	–
Tim Littles (USA)	8	8	4
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	9	–	–
Carl Jones (USA)	10	–	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	–	3	2
Byun Gin Kang (KOR)	22	4	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	6	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	–	7	–
Henry Wharton (GB)	–	9	–
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	–	–	3
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	20	–	6
Daren Zenner (USA)	19	–	7
Tony Thornton (USA)	–	–	8
Ray Close (GB)	13	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerald McClellan (USA)	C	–	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	1	5	7
Julian Jackson (VI)	2	–	4
Silvio Branco (ITA)	3	10	–
Quincy Taylor (USA)	4	8	5
Lonnie Bradley (USA)	5	–	–
Joe Lipsey (USA)	6	9	3
Richie Woodhall (GB)	7	–	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	8	1	8
Neville Brown (GB)	9	–	10
John David Jackson (USA)	10	2	6
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	3	–
Segundo Mercado (ECU)	–	4	2
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	11	6	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	7	1
Miguel Viloria (COL)	–	–	9

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luis Santana (DR)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	C
Terry Norris (USA)	1	–	–
Julio C. Green (USA)	2	3	1
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	3	1	8
Bronco McKart (USA)	4	–	–
Simon Brown (USA)	5	8	10
Robert McCracken (GB)	6	–	6
Carl Daniels (USA)	7	2	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	8	–	2
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	9	12	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	10	–	–
Winky Wright (USA)	12	4	–
Julian Jackson (USA)	–	5	–
Tony Marshall (USA)	–	6	–
Bernard Razzano (FRA)	–	7	–
Paul Vaden (USA)	–	9	–
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	15	10	3
Keith Holmes (USA)	–	–	4
Raul Marquez (USA)	22	–	5
Rossman Henry (COL)	–	–	7
Darrin Morris (USA)	–	11	9

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Gary Jacobs (GB)	1	5	4
Larry Barnes (USA)	2	–	1
Andrew Murray (GUY)	3	1	2
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	4	–	3
David Gonzalez (USA)	5	11	7
Buddy McGirt (USA)	6	–	8
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	7	2	–
Lonnie Smith (USA)	8	–	–
Derrell Coley (USA)	9	12	10
Delroy Bryan (GB)	10	–	–
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	–	3	–
Oba Carr (USA)	13	4	6
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	–	6	5
Freddy Ladd (USA)	–	7	–
Roger Turner (USA)	28	8	9
Sean Sullivan (NZ)	–	9	–
Andrey Pestryaev (RUS)	18	10	–

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Frankie Randall (USA)	–	C	–
Jake Rodriguez (USA)	–	–	C
David Kamau (USA)	1	7	5
Jan Bergman (SA)	2	6	11

Hugo Pineda (COL)	3	4	2
Juan Martin Coggi (ARG)	4	3	–
Giovanni Parisi (ITA)	5	10	3
Hector Lopez (MEX)	6	–	–
Darryll Tyson (USA)	7	–	4
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	8	–	–
Tony Lopez (USA)	9	–	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	10	–	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	11	1	–
Kurt Bo Jacobsen (DEN)	18	2	–
Won Park (KOR)	23	5	–
George Scott (USA)	–	8	–
Valery Kayumba (FRA)	21	9	–
Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)	–	–	1
Pedro Sanchez (DR)	–	–	6
Pedro Padilla (COL)	–	–	7
Ray Oliveira (USA)	14	–	8
Freddie Ladd (USA)	–	–	9
Rodney Moore (USA)	26	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Yuzarov Olzubek (JAP)	–	C	–
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	–	–	C
Miguel Julio (COL)	1	8	1
Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA)	2	–	–
Lavander Johnson (USA)	3	5	7
Ramon Marchena (MEX)	4	–	8
Ricardo Silva (ARG)	5	–	–
Marty Jakubowski (USA)	6	–	–
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	7	–	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	8	–	–
Hector Tejeda (ARG)	9	–	–
Steve Johnston (USA)	10	–	–
Joey Gamache (USA)	26	1	–
Carl Griffith (USA)	–	2	–
Adrianus Taroreh (INDO)	25	3	–
Fabian Tejeda (ARG)	–	4	–
Dino Canoy (PHIL)	–	6	–
Tony Lopez (USA)	–	7	10
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	–	9	–
Rocheed Lawal (DEN)	12	10	–
Billy Schwer (GB)	–	11	2
Orlando Marimon (COL)	–	–	3
John Lark (USA)	–	–	4
Dingaan Thobela (SA)	22	–	5
Wilson Palacios (COL)	–	–	6
Sun Robinson (USA)	14	–	9

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	C	–	–
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
John-John Molina (PR)	–	–	C
Ansumah Nelson (GHA)	1	–	9
Anatoly Alexandrov (RUS)	2	–	–
Ed Hopson (USA)	3	4	2
Jesse James Leija (USA)	4	5	7
Tony Pep (CAN)	5	–	–
Fred Liberatore (USA)	6	12	5
Jacobin Yoma (FRA)	7	–	–
Ulrich Johnson (TRIN)	8	–	–
Arturo Gatti (USA)	9	–	3
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	10	1	–
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	–	2	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	14	3	–
Lamar Murphy (USA)	–	6	–
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	–	7	4
Marcos Guevara (VEN)	–	8	–
Justin Juuko (UGA)	24	9	–
Calvin Grove (USA)	–	10	8
Moises Pedroza (COL)	–	–	1
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	–	6
Hernan Gutierrez (COL)	–	–	10

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Kevin Kelley (USA)	C	–	–
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	1	5	7
Cesar Soto (MEX)	2	–	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	3	4	1
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	4	–	10
Jose Badillo (PR)	5	7	6
Tony Green (USA)	6	–	2
Manuel Medina (MEX)	7	–	12
Chris Saguid (PHIL)	8	11	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	9	3	3
Carlos Rios (ARG)	10	–	–
Luis Mendoza (COL)	15	1	–

Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	12	2	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	14	6	8
Fernando Rodriguez (USA)	–	8	–
Francisco Segura (USA)	20	9	4
Sean Murphy (USA)	–	10	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	–	5
Benny Amparo (USA)	–	–	9

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Julio Gervacio (DR)	1	4	5
Tracy Patterson (USA)	2	–	12
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	3	11	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	4	8	6
Frank Toledo (USA)	5	–	9
Eddie Croft (USA)	6	–	–
Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)	7	–	7
Sergio Liendo (ARG)	8	–	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	9	–	3
Juan Polo Perez (COL)	10	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	1	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	26	2	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	18	3	–
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	14	5	–
Junior Jones (USA)	–	6	–
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	16	7	–
Hee Yun Kwon (KOR)	–	9	–
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	–	10	–
Nurhuda (INDO)	–	–	1
Pablo Ozuna (COL)	–	–	2
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	12	–	4
Maui Diaz (USA)	20	–	8
Orlando Fernandez (PR)	–	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	C	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	1	–	7
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	2	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	3	5	–
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	4	12	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	5	–	–
Naseem Hamed (GB)	6	7	6
Roberto Moran (ARG)	7	–	–
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	8	–	–
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	9	–	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	10	–	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	–	1	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	–	2	–
Eliecer Julio (COL)	16	3	–
Abraham Torres (VEN)	24	4	10
John Michael Johnson (USA)	13	6	–
Harold Mestre (COL)	11	8	2
In Shik Koh (KOR)	–	9	–
Winsut Chuvatana (THAI)	–	10	–
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	1
Sergio Reyes (USA)	22	–	3
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	4
Mbuelo Botile (SA)	30	–	5
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	28	–	8
John Armour (GB)	12	–	9

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	C	–	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	–	C	–
Harold Grey (COL)	–	–	C
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	1	10	–
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	2	–	–
Danny Romero (USA)	3	–	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	4	–	4
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	5	4	–
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	6	–	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	7	–	–
Luis Bolano (COL)	8	–	–
Jose Sosa (ARG)	9	–	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	10	–	–
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	–	1	–
Julio Gamboa Blanco (NIC)	16	2	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	3	–
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	–	5	–
David Griman (VEN)	–	6	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	12	7	–
Alimi Goitia (VEN)	23	8	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	11	9	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	1
Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)	–	–	2

Jaji Sibali (SA)	–	–	3
Rolando Bohol (PHIL)	29	–	5
Jose Diaz (USA)	28	–	6
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	–	–	7
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	–	–	8
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	9
Vincent Belcastro (ITA)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
San Sor Ploenchit (THAI)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Chatchai Elite-Gym (THAI)	1	9	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	2	–	4
Danny Nunez (DR)	3	8	–
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	4	–	–
Hugo Soto (ARG)	5	–	–
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	6	–	8
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	7	–	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	8	–	–
Chokchai 3-K Battery (THAI)	9	5	–
Raul Rios (MEX)	10	–	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	23	1	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	–	2	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	21	3	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	22	4	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	6	1
Luigi Camputaro (ITA)	18	7	–
Tomonori Tamura (JAP)	–	10	–
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	17	–	3
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	–	–	5
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	6
Robbie Regan (GB)	12	–	7
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	–	–	9
Luis Benavidez (COL)	20	–	10

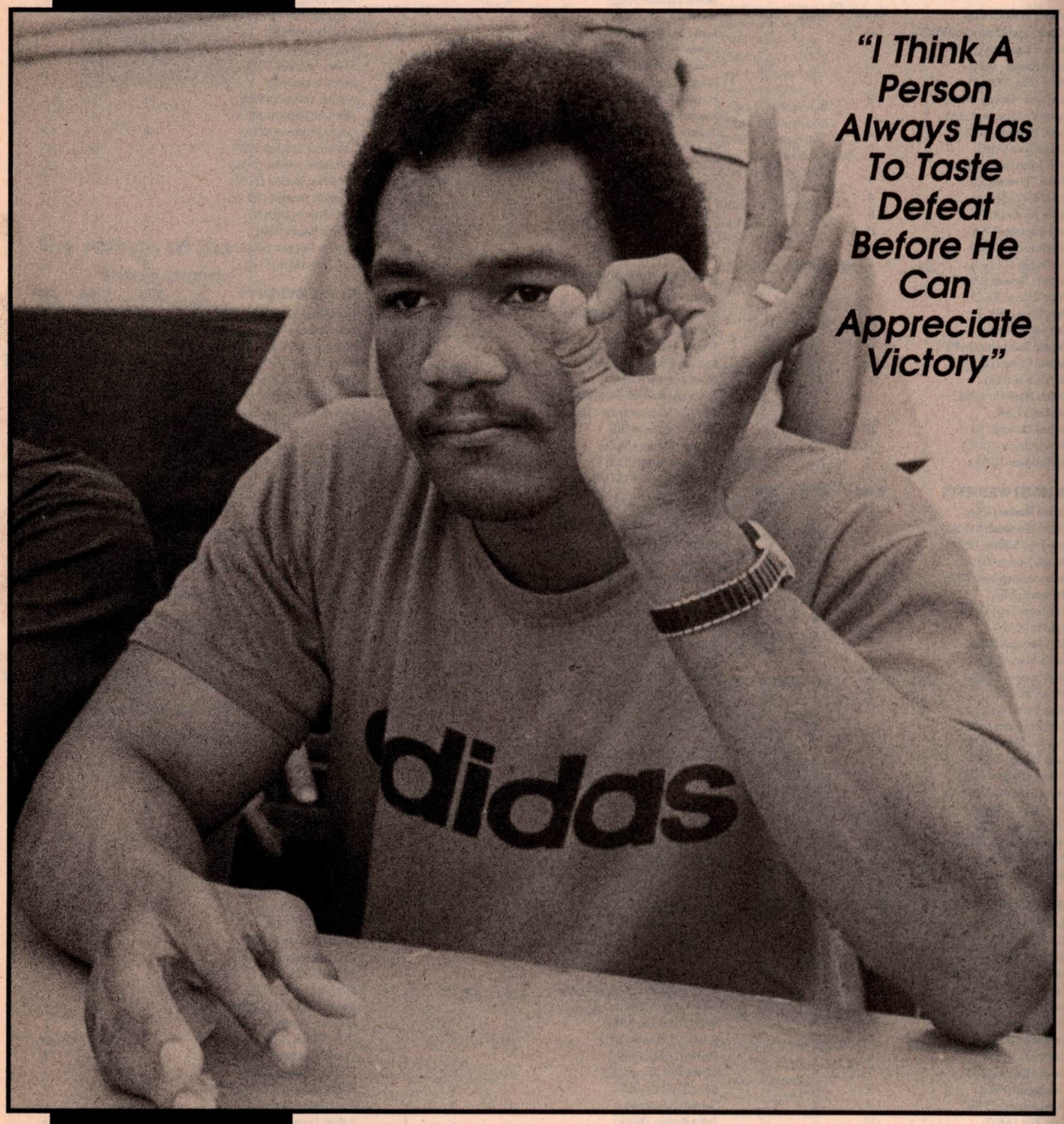
JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	C
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	C	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	–	4
Jesus Chong (MEX)	2	8	10
Michael Carbajal (USA)	3	–	3
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	4	3	–
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	5	–	–
Javier Varguez (MEX)	6	–	–
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	7	–	–
Yong Soon Chang (KOR)	8	9	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	9	4	2
Tomonori Tamura (JAP)	10	–	8
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	1	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	27	2	–
Fahlan Sakkirin (THAI)	–	5	–
Hadao C.P. Gym (THAI)	11	6	–
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	12	7	7
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	–	10	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	1
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	–	–	5
Rosando Alvarez (NIG)	–	–	6
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	23	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	4	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	6	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	3	–	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	4	–	–
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	5	–	–
Seo Kjin Yang (KOR)	6	7	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	7	8	–
Shinichi Tamaki (JAP)	8	11	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	9	–	3
Paul Oulden (SA)	10	–	–
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	–	1	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	18	2	–
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	–	3	6
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	–	5	–
Manuel Herrera (DR)	–	9	–
Keum Yung Kang (KOR)	–	10	–
Mauricio Pastrana (COL)	–	–	1
Oscar Flores (COL)	–	–	2
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	–	4
Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)	–	–	5
Surachai Saengmorokot (THAI)	–	–	7
Jerry Pahayahay (PHIL)	26	–	8
Rafael Torres (USA)	–	–	9
Dominggus (INDO)	–	–	10

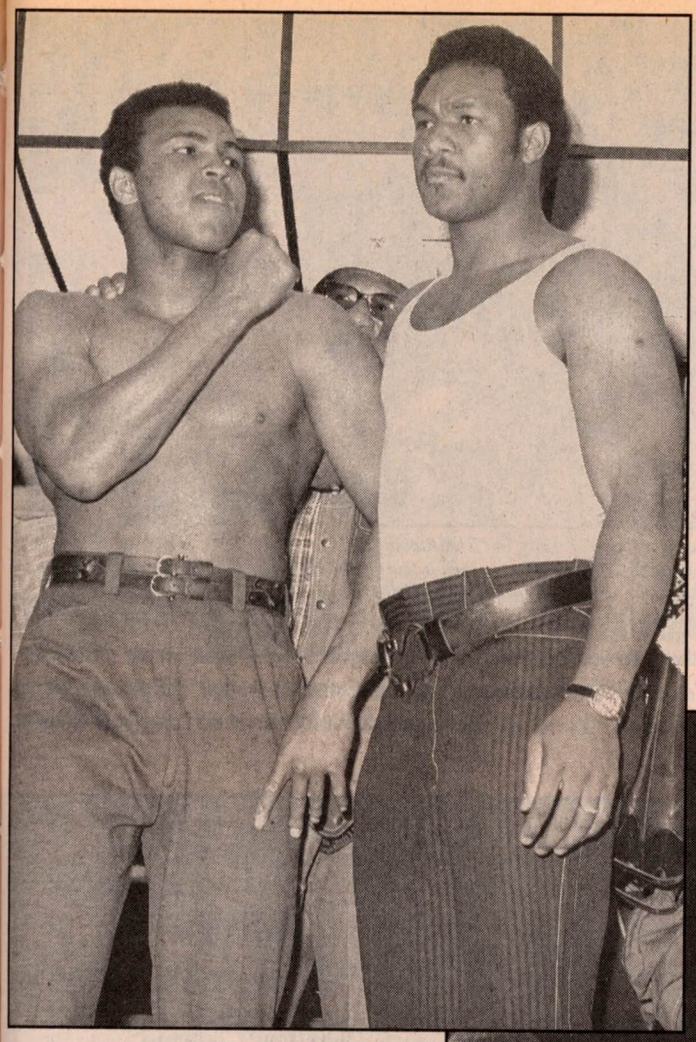
CLASSIC

From THE RING, May 1976

GEORGE FOREMAN SPEAKS IN DEPTH:



"I Think A Person Always Has To Taste Defeat Before He Can Appreciate Victory"



Before their historic showdown, Foreman seemed unsure of whether to ignore or play along with Ali's familiar act (left). At the weigh-in, the defending champion exuded confidence, and Ali's trainer, Angelo Dundee, looked concerned (below).

By George Foreman

People in the public eye are always subject to criticism. George Foreman is no exception. Thanks to the editors of THE RING, the following will hopefully explain to boxing fans and critics what's inside my head.

First off, why the 15-month gap between the Ali fight and the Lyle fight? Most of all, there was a lot of confusion going on with me, not knowing exactly what fights to take. No one to really advise me, so I'm having to sit back and contemplate whether I'm making the right decisions myself.

Being hesitant, what happens is a lot of time goes by. I find myself saying, "Nope, I better wait and think this over." Next thing I know, six months have gone by. Then it goes on and on and inactivity sets in.

Finally, I decided, "I've got to come back." And the only way I could come back was with a top opponent. I had a chance to fight Ron Lyle, a guy who had just fought for the title.

Yeah, the only way I'd come back in boxing would be the right way. Don't go hiding from punchers. Don't go hiding from good boxers. Fight the best that's available.

I feel that what's good for Foreman is good for boxing.

In general, if you're getting exposure and fighting good, honest fights, it's good for boxing. These days in my career, I'm gonna fight nothing but bona fide contenders to get myself into the championship picture, and I'll appreciate it more. That's good for boxing.

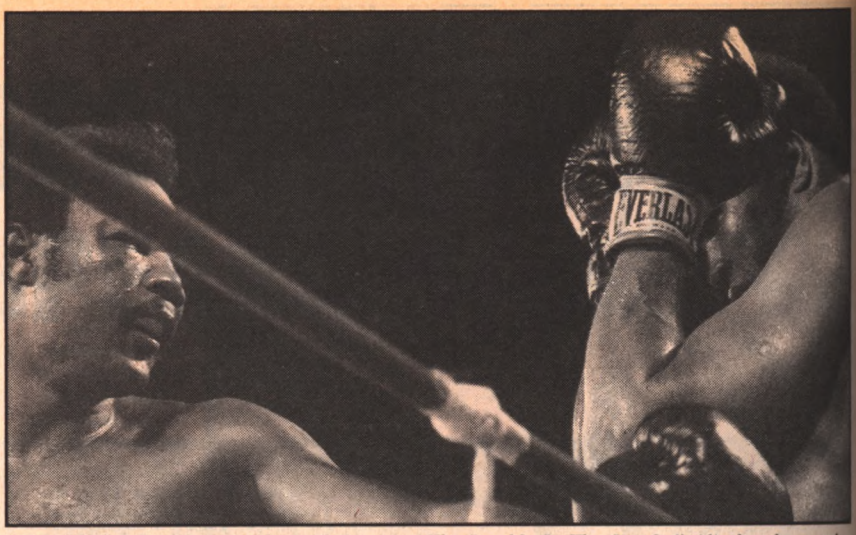
There's no way in the world I can come up with off-the-wall opponents and justify it anymore. No way. And the fights will be promoted with class and prestige, like Jerry Perenchio did at Caesars Palace when I fought Lyle. That's good for boxing.

And I'm going to have to be thoroughly conditioned. That's good for boxing.

Some writers criticize me for not making myself more available for interviews: "George doesn't cooperate." One thing about giving interviews—it's just like training for me. When I really sit down and rap with a guy, I give it all I got. I never prepare anything to say, and there's nothing that I won't talk about. I try not to repeat myself from one interview to another. I love to give interviews, but they take a lot out of me. I'm honest. I try to get right down to the basics. Hopefully, if you do that, the guy will write an honest story.

After I have an interview, I need a rest.

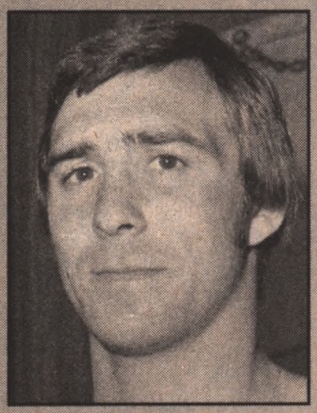
Some writers will say, "George, Ali will see me any time of the day or night. He'll always talk. He cooperates." Well, I think certain people have certain things they keep saying, and they're never going to say anything different. For example, what if you came to me and said, "George, let me have an interview," and I said, "Okay, two and two is four, nine and nine is 18, 19 plus one is 20." And then there was another guy that wanted another interview right away, and I said, "okay," and told him the same things?



While 7-1 favorite Foreman banged away in "The Rumble In The Jungle," Ali played rope-a-dope (above). When Ali came off the ropes and unleashed a few choice right hands, an exhausted Foreman crashed and took the full count of referee Zack Clayton (opposite right).

There would be no strain on me. I could do that constantly. All the time. If I was like that, I could do an interview any time. It wouldn't

THE RING RATINGS, *May 1976*



John H. Stracey

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Muhammad Ali, Chicago, IL

1. **Ken Norton**, San Diego, CA
2. **George Foreman**, Houston, TX
3. **Jimmy Young**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **Joe Frazier**, Philadelphia, PA
5. **Duane Bobick**, Bowlus, MN
6. **Ron Lyle**, Denver, CO
7. **Earnie Shavers**, Warren, OH
8. **Larry Holmes**, Scranton, PA
9. **Chuck Wepner**, Bayonne, NJ
10. **Johnny Boudreaux**, Houston, TX

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant

1. **Victor Galindez***, Argentina
2. **Len Hutchins**, Detroit, MI
3. **Richie Kates**, Brighton, NJ
4. **John Conteh****, England
5. **Tom Bethea**, New York, NY
6. **Bobby Cassidy**, New York, NY
7. **Alvaro Lopez**, Stockton, CA
8. **Jesse Burnett**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Domenico Adinolfi**, Italy
10. **Mate Parlov**, Yugoslavia

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carlos Monzon*, Argentina

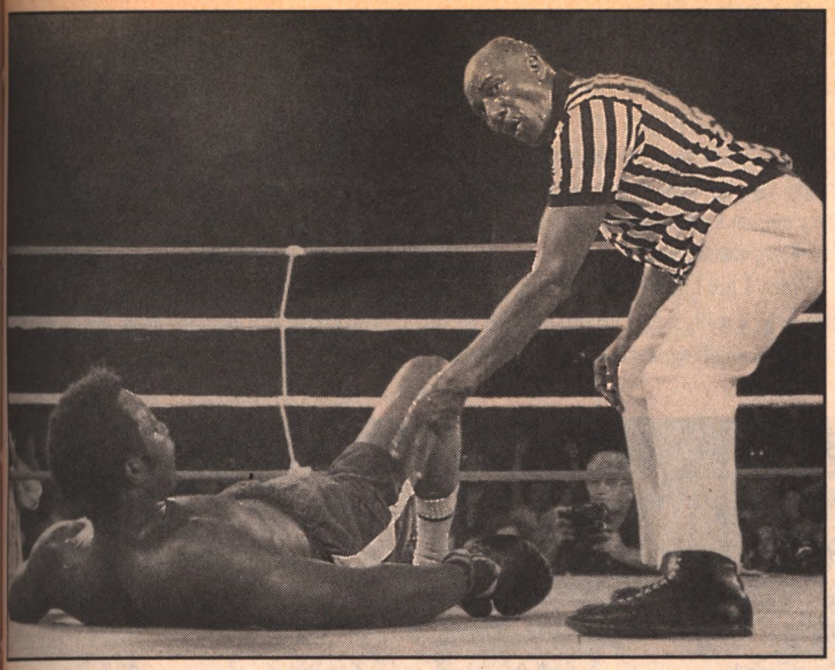
1. **Rodrigo Valdes****, Colombia
2. **Vito Antuofermo**, Italy
3. **Willie Monroe**, Philadelphia, PA
4. **George Cooper**, Oakland, CA
5. **Tony Licata**, New Orleans, LA
6. **Bobby Watts**, Philadelphia, PA
7. **Gratien Tonna**, France
8. **Bennie Briscoe**, Philadelphia, PA
9. **Eugene Hart**, Philadelphia, PA
10. **Mike Colbert**, Portland, OR

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Koichi Wajima*, Japan

1. **Elisha Obed****, Bahamas
2. **Jae Do Yuh**, South Korea
3. **Miguel De Oliveira**, Brazil
4. **Maurice Hope**, England
5. **Gene Wells**, Mobile. AL
6. **Miguel Campanino**, Argentina
7. **Eckhard Dagge**, Germany
8. **Perry Abner**, Philadelphia, PA
9. **Mike Baker**, Hillcrest Heights, MD
10. **Leo Saenz**, Baltimore, MD

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: John Stracey, England**

1. **Angel Espada***, Puerto Rico
2. **Clyde Gray**, Canada
3. **Armando Muniz**, Los Angeles, CA
4. **Pete Ranzany**, Sacramento, CA
5. **Jose Naploes**, Mexico
6. **Harold Weston Jr.**, New York, NY
7. **Bruno Arcari**, Italy
8. **Carlos Palomino**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Johnny Gant**, Washington, D.C.
10. **Fausto Rodriguez**, Dominican Republic



bother me. I'd just have a prepared thing. Rehearse it. Then say it to them. But the press always likes to go in-depth with me, so I just can't do that all the time. No way I can just do that any old time.

I really enjoy getting into myself during these interviews. When I talk, I make myself rattle, rattle, rattle off. I'm listening to myself talk. This is where I get my own knowledge about myself. I pick up what I'm talking about. I end up working out problems by talking. I enjoy just letting myself go.

A lot of these in-depth reporters who come out and sit with you, such as Red Smith, Dave Anderson, Milton Richmond, Eddie Muller, Jack Fiske, Paul McCarthy, Art Rosenbaum, Jim Murray, Dick Young, Melvin Durslag, Ed Schuyler, Allan Malamud, and Nat Loubet—these are heavy cats. They spend much of their life talking with guys like O.J. Simpson, Wilt Chamberlain, Muhammad, Johnny Unitas, Jim Brown, Jack Dempsey, or Joe Louis. They've observed these people over the years, and they've formed their opinions, too.

You're really not just talking to dodos. A lot of times they envision things that are going to

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3. **Monroe Brooks**, Los Angeles, CA
4. **Hector Thompson**, Australia
5. **Lou Bizzarro**, Erie, PA
6. **Nicolino Locche**, Argentina
7. **Cemal Kamaci**, Austria
8. **Esteban DeJesus**, Puerto Rico
9. **Carlos Giminez**, Argentina
10. **Saoul Mamby**, New York, NY

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Roberto Duran*, Panama

1. **Ishimatsu Suzuki****, Japan
2. **Vilomar Fernandez**, Dominican Republic
3. **Ray Lampkin**, Portland, OR
4. **Angel Mayoral**, Las Vegas, NV
5. **Vicente Saldivar**, Mexico
6. **Hector Medina**, Puerto Rico
7. **Buzzsaw Yamabe**, Japan
8. **Jean-Baptiste Piedvache**, France
9. **Rudy Hernandez**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Edwin Viruet**, Puerto Rico

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ben Villaflor*, Philippines

1. **Tyrone Everett**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Alfredo Escalera****, Puerto Rico
3. **Ronnie McGarvey**, Hillcrest Heights, MD
4. **Samuel Serrano**, Puerto Rico
5. **Sven-Eric Paulsen**, Norway
6. **Ray Lunny III**, San Francisco, CA
7. **Apollo Yoshio**, Japan
8. **Kuniaki Shibata**, Japan
9. **Walter Seeley**, New York, NY
10. **Norman Goins**, Indianapolis, IN

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Alexis Arguello*, Nicaragua

1. **Art Hafey**, Canada
2. **David (Poison) Kotey****, Ghana
3. **Danny Lopez**, Los Angeles, CA
4. **Elio Cotina**, Italy
5. **Leonel Hernandez**, Venezuela
6. **Shig Fukuyama**, Japan
7. **Octavio Gomez**, Mexico
8. **Rigoberto Riasco**, Panama
9. **Arnold Taylor**, South Africa
10. **Ruben Olivares**, Mexico

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Alfonso Zamora*, Mexico

1. **Rodolfo Martinez****, Mexico
2. **Carlos Zarate**, Mexico
3. **Eusebio Pedroza**, Panama
4. **Soo Hwan Hong**, South Korea
5. **Wilfredo Gomez**, Puerto Rico
6. **Paul Ferreri**, Australia
7. **Paddy Maguire**, Ireland
8. **Daniel Troulaire**, France
9. **Andres Hernandez**, Puerto Rico
10. **Leo Cruz**, Dominican Republic

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Miguel Canto, Mexico**

1. **Betulio Gonzalez**, Venezuela
2. **Alfonso Lopez***, Panama
3. **Ignacio Espinal**, Dominican Republic
4. **Luis Estaba**, Venezuela
5. **Jaime Rios**, Panama
6. **Erbito Salavarria**, Philippines
7. **Franco Sperti**, Italy
8. **Alberto Morales**, Mexico
9. **Pablo Jiminez**, Dominican Republic
10. **Shoji Oguma**, Japan

Champions: *WBA **WBC

happen to other people, so you pick up a lot from them. Every now and then when they do interject, it's an intelligent thing. Time and again they give you some advice that's really worthwhile. So I keep one big ear open as we talk.

Who gets better-acquainted with sports people than sportswriters? They get involved, too. Like the guy who wrote *The Boys Of Summer*, Roger Kahn. You couldn't tell me he didn't get personally involved living with the Brooklyn Dodgers of the Jackie Robinson era. He felt plenty of emotions in his experiences. Now, when he sees young baseball players breaking into the big leagues, he can almost forecast what may happen to them. So they can find out a lot from people like him.

I'll appreciate the heavyweight championship more when I win it the second time. This time I want to earn it the tough way. Before, I was the Olympic champion and had a lot of publicity and a lot of push behind me. Lots of people were doing things for me that they wouldn't ordinarily do for most people. Instantly I became a contender. I was a fighting contender, so the pressure was put on the champion (Joe Frazier) to fight me, and I won the title. It was like one-two-three right down the line. A lot of people in the world didn't know who I was when I became champion. But this time they'll know.

The whole idea is to become champion again. It means more to me than anything. It can't be done this time by any doors being opened. I just have to go out and eliminate anyone that stands in my way. Get your title shot and win it. Can't bring back no excuse. No excuse will do.

Losing the title was part of my maturing process. I think a person always has to taste defeat before he can appreciate victory. I didn't know anything about defeat in my first 40 fights. I know what it's all about now. When I had the Lyle fight, nothing in me, in my whole subconscious, my whole body, nowhere in me wanted to be a loser anymore. Nowhere. Even when I was out, the subconscious didn't want any part of it.

It picked me off the floor and I won. Now I know what defeat is, and there's no way I can justify it. Some people can say to themselves, "Well, I lost it. It doesn't matter, you know. So what. I have this and I have that." And they can soothe themselves. But nowhere inside of me can I be relaxed with losing. That's what made me get up off the floor even when I was out. My body just would not accept my losing again. And I won't be able to soothe myself.

In Africa, when I got knocked down it really embarrassed me to no end. The fight was over when I got up. That just isn't the way I would have wanted to go. I would have like to have fought my way even if they would have had to carry me out. I'd have appreciated that a lot more than being counted out.

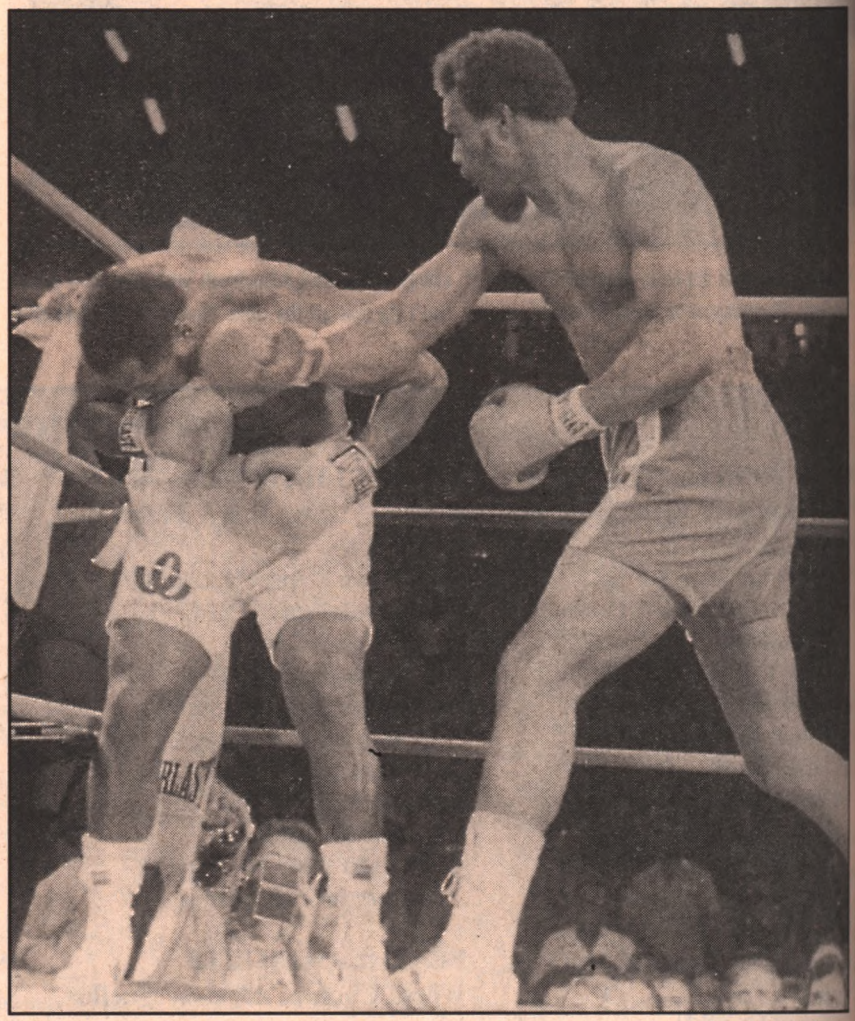
When I got knocked down the second time with Lyle, it really ticked me off. It ticked me off more than anything, because when I was down there I must have said to myself, "Oh, well, here I go again." And it ticked me off that I could even say that to myself. I jumped off the floor and not only fought with Lyle, but I fought with myself.

The whole idea of Zaire and all that just came right back to me. I relived my whole boxing career and the Africa thing in the few seconds I was down. There would have been no way Lyle could have beaten me. He could have knocked me down again, and I wasn't gonna give the referee time to count me out or nothing.

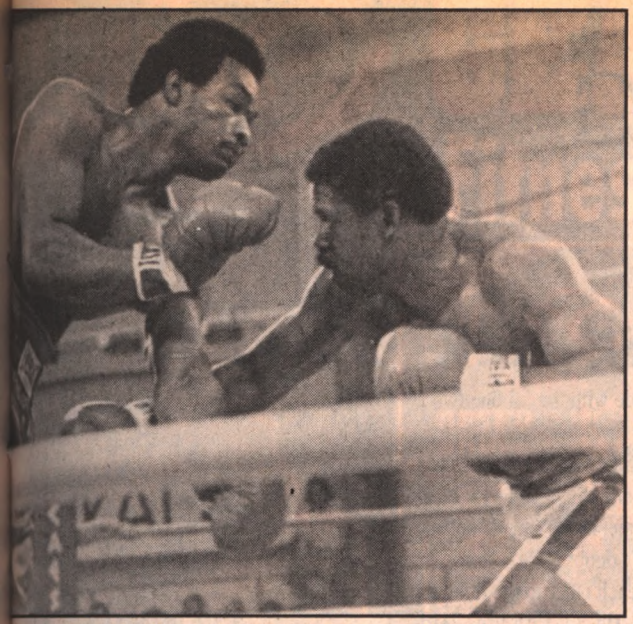
Winning that fight proved a lot to me. Inside me. The inside is where you get your hurt, and inside is where you get your satisfaction. Somehow, I celebrated from inside.

I wish I was nervous about getting into the ring before a fight. I have to keep telling myself, "Hey, you're in the ring. You're fixin' to fight." It's a job to keep telling yourself, "You're in the ring. You're in the ring."

I think if I were to experience a little nervousness or a little fright, it would help me a lot. These days I go into the ring and I don't feel any of that, so I'm constantly trying to tell myself, "You're in the ring, this is a fight. This is



For Foreman, winning the title was easy; he was unbeaten when he captured the crown in January 1973 by destroying Joe Frazier in two rounds in Jamaica. But as the former champion says, "I think a person always has to taste defeat before he can appreciate victory."



Foreman's comeback bout with Lyle will live in history as one of the greatest heavyweight brawls ever. Foreman twice went down, but refused to quit. "Nowhere inside of me can I be relaxed with losing," he says.

for real ... this is for real ... this is for real."

I have a heck of a time getting myself psyched up. In the Ali fight, I was very overconfident. I'm still overconfident. I never used to look into the crowd before a fight to acknowledge people. I used to go into the ring tight and nervous. And I'd watch this sucker. He was going to put me through all this pain. He was going to try to hit me on my nose. Try and hit me in my stomach. If the guy would swing at me and miss, I'd be all over him. *Boom, boom, boom.* I'd be on him trying to push him out of the ring. Anything. Overconfidence is really a problem.

When I fight for the title again, I hope the other guy is a 3-1 favorite.

The experts who said I was going to kill Muhammad said I wasn't worth a damn after I lost. They suffered from overconfidence, too. I understand why they were overconfident, and I understood their reactions after the fight: "George is not this. George is not that."

A lot of times I read certain things about Muhammad where all you'd have to do is to remove his name from the story and put in George Foreman and it would be the same stories they were writing about me when I was champion. I think it will work out in the end that they'll give him the same thing they gave me: overconfidence. He'll have what I had: a silly idea that he's indestructible.

I need boxing more than it needs me. Boxing gives me a drive, a reason to get up. Nothing else does that. When I worked a week on a *Sanford And Son* show recently, the reason I went to bed at a certain hour was because I knew I had to get up to do roadwork. I had to tell myself that I had to run to keep myself in shape for the next fight, not the TV thing. It was because I had to get up to run that gave me purpose.

Boxing gives me something to live for. It creates that burning sensation that you've gotta win, you gotta get yourself ready for training, you gotta have sparring partners come in, you gotta be careful 'cause they could knock your head off, you gotta bend down, you gotta watch his right hand, you gotta get some advice from the corner.

Boxing gives me a reason. ■

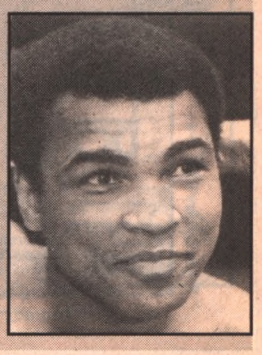
The Cover: Is Big George Foreman trying to change his image? In an exclusive interview, the former heavyweight champion, who wants another crack at Muhammad Ali, declares, "I'm no bad guy." Judging by the cover shot, he doesn't have a bad car, either.

Ali's Latest: Making his first defense since "The Thrilla In Manila," heavyweight king Muhammad Ali toys with Jean Pierre Coopman before finishing the overmatched challenger in round five. Correspondent Mario Rivera Martino reports from ringside at the Roberto Clemente Coliseum in San Juan.

Streaking Featherweight: Though only 18 years old, 126-pound prospect Ruben Castillo, shown vs. Kenny Weldon, is already being compared to one-time West Coast sensation Bobby Chacon. Harold Cox profiles Castillo, a fast-handed boxer-puncher out of Bakersfield, California.

Mazel Tough: New Jersey middleweight Mike Rossman is a young fighter to watch, as evidenced by his savage knockout of Mike Nixon. Stuart L. Berman examines bomber Rossman, who hopes to follow in the tradition of such world-class Jewish battlers as Sid Terris, Benny Leonard, Jackie Berg, and Barney Ross.

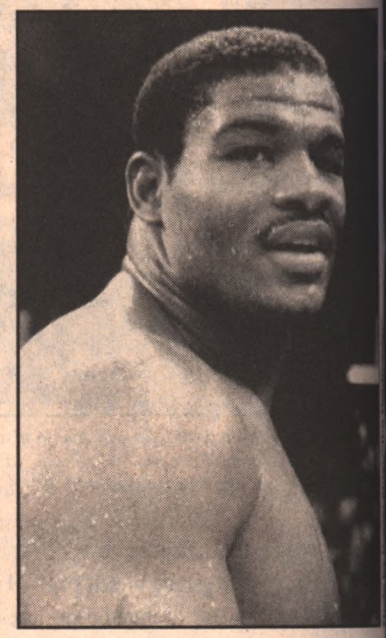
Fighter Of The Month: Heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali is honored for his defense against Jean Pierre Coopman. The runner-up is junior middleweight Koichi "The Flame" Wajima, who regained the world title for a second time by kayoing Jae Do Yuh in Japan.



LOOKING AHEAD

By Steve Farhood

HIDE & BOWE SEEK



Bowe: Perfecting the cheap shot

Will Riddick Bowe pop Herbie Hide with the 'ol one-two at the final press conference before their HBO-televised March 11 showdown at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas? If he does, England's Hide, 26-0 (25), has made one thing perfectly clear: He's no Larry Donald. "If anyone hits me, in the ring or outside, I will hit back," he promised. We don't doubt Hide's word; last March, he and Michael Bentt wrestled each other to the floor at a press conference before their battle in London. Hide subsequently kayoed Bentt in seven rounds.

Since all of the action happens either before or after Bowe's fights, we're already looking ahead to "Big Daddy's" proposed duel with abusive Cuban-born Jorge Luis Gonzalez. The unbeaten, 6'7" Gonzalez has insulted Bowe at every turn, and don't be surprised if, during a photo shoot or a double-interview, he slaps the former world champion right across the chops.

Maybe we can skip Bowe's fights and just schedule more press conferences. You never know what Bowe might do. And besides, it seems time for Rock Newman to stomp on somebody, don't you think?

ONE MORE JUMP

How far can Pernell Whitaker go? "Sweet Pea," who began his championship run by unifying the lightweight title, has added belts at junior welterweight and welterweight. He's currently reigning as WBC 147-pound king, but will move up on March 4, when he tackles WBA junior middleweight champion and fellow southpaw Julio Cesar Vasquez.

"Vasquez is a rough, tough guy, like Victor Galindez," Lou Duva, Whitaker's co-manager, told THE RING. "He walks right in and looks to bomb you every round. You gotta be alert, sharp. Pete'll come in around 148-150 pounds."

Duva adds that should Whitaker be victorious, he'll immediately vacate and drop back down to welterweight, where he'll face mandatory challenger Gary Jacobs and then WBA champion Ike Quartey.

"Vasquez is just another challenge to Whitaker," Duva said. "The titles don't mean anything to him."

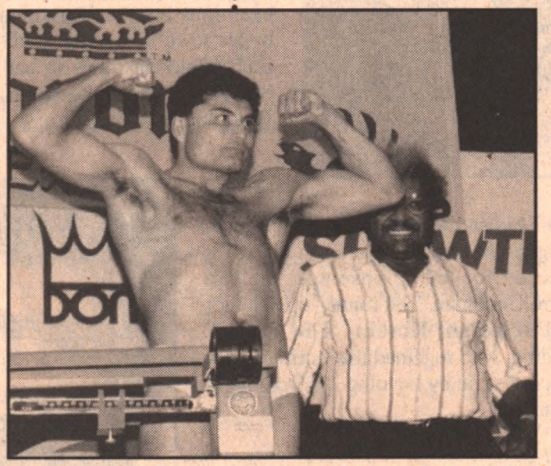


Photo by Jay Lash

Vasquez: Too strong for "Sweet Pea"?

LISTEN UP

Next up for WBC super lightweight champion **Julio Cesar Chavez**? In the opposite corner will be Italy's **Giovanni Parisi**, with Los Angeles veteran **Hector Lopez** on deck. When asked if Chavez hasn't scheduled a third fight with **Frankie Randall** because "J.C. Superstar's" arch-rival is too tough, Al **Braverman**, director of boxing for **Don King**, answered, "Yes. [Chavez] has three or four more fights coming up. Randall will be around fight number 100. If Chavez goes down, it's with Randall." One other interesting tidbit from Braverman: WBC strawweight champion **Ricardo Lopez**, who has discussed retirement, will fight former 108-pound titlist **Michael Carbajal** sometime this year. "Carbajal looked so bad [in his third bout vs. **Chiquita Gonzalez**] that Lopez won't retire," Braverman said.

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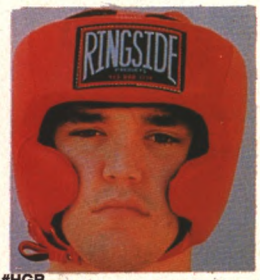

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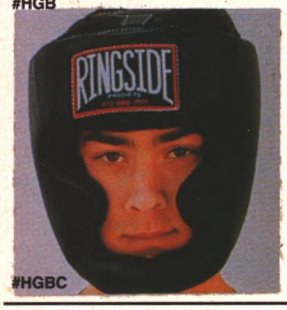

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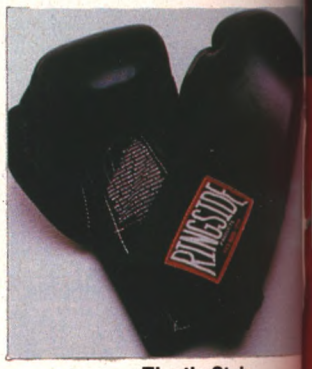

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